Miss Vant

REPORT TO BOARD OF NATION MISSIONS
October, 1937 to June, 1938.

In November Mr. Hirst, who is in charge of the educational work of the Office of Indian Affairs in Alaska, spent two days with us and we were very glad to have him here. He said he was going to see Mr. Somerndike in New York some time during the winter and I hope he got there, as I would like to have the Board hear from him what he thot of this Mission House.

Mr. Hirst had been in Savoonga before he came here and the natives had told him they were going to try to buy the building at Kukulik, which Mr. Geist had used two summers, and build a chapel for their use in the village. They wanted to use the money from the community fund for this work but Mr. Hirst did not approve of that. He told me he had offered the natives the use of the second floor of the school building for their services. He wante me to look it over when I went to Savoonga and see what I thot of it.

Miss Leake, the new nurse, came over on the North Star in November, as we had a very sick man here whom we wanted her to see. She stayedover Thanksgiving and left early in December, after helping me do up the natives' gifts for Christmas. She is an excellent nurse and we all like her very much. Quarters were fixed up for her over the work shop. When the new shcool house is built she is to have the small house used by the teachers now.

When Miss Leake got back to Savoonga one of the native women said they thot when Miss Leake was in Gambell, Miss Bannab ought to go to Savoonga. Miss Leake wrote this to me, and I thot I could not possibly make the trip, as I did not have the fur clothing necessary for such a long trip. It was too near Christmas for me to spend much time on the subject.

Then during the holidays Mr. Connelly, the Savoonga teacher, came over and insisted on me returning with him; there was great need of me over in that village; maybe it was too late for me not to do anything; etc.etc. I did not know what to think because he did not come out and say any definite thing about what was going on there. I could not go then, as it was very cold and I had no one to stay here and keep things from freezing. I began to pray about it and soon the thot came to me to ask Miss Leake if she would exchange homes, food, fuel and everything with me. She sent back word at once that it would be satisfactory to her amd she wanted to come here the 10th of January.

My fur parka has been worn the fifteen years I've been in Alaska so it is not as warm as it was once, therefore the Connellys sent me a parka of theirs, with fur mittens, a down sleeping bag, and canvas to wrap around me to break the wind. Miss Leake loaned me a fur cap, which she later gave me, reindeer fur pants, and hip boots of wolf skin and a fawn skin jacket to wear under the parka. I left here the morning of the 11th of January and after putting on all these fur duds I put on last my own rain proof parka, as the wind was strong and very cold that day. I found it hard to move myself with so many garments on but I was snug and warm all the time, which is the main thing when one is traveling in winter. I returned with the team Miss Leake had used coming here. The trip in winter is longer than in summer when they use boats, because they have to go up into the mountains and some distance back from the shore.

I was in Savoonga nearly five weeks and was busy most of the time I was there. While I was eating my first meal with the teachers they began talking about getting the room ready for the church services, and I had to see that room at once. I liked it but it was not finished over head. We do not want to put any money into it as it is Government property.

The main thing about the room is that is large enough to take care of all who want to come to service. To date the natives had met in one of the school rooms and the teacher furnished the coal from his supply. The natives cleaned the room up afterward. But they were so crowded many people had to stay out in the hall and could not hear all that was said; they did not have seats for the whole congregation, and there was a lot of fussing by the natives and teachers. No one liked the arrangement.

On Monday Mr. Connelly calledthe Council tomeet with us and the men began next day toclear out the room, which has been used by the community for a work shop. (Now the men have built a new shop nearer their store.) They borrowed planks from the Reindeer Company and made benches. The old organ was turned over to the church, as the teachers had received a new portable one. Mr. Hirst had told Mr. Connelly to let us use one of the large heaters they were discarding because now they are using oil burners in the school rooms. After the work was all done, Mr. Connelly gave us five sacks of coal, and a drum opened on the side for a coal bin. Everyone was happy when we had our first service in that room. As we had cold weather rather steadily, we had the mid-week prayer service in Mrs. Connelly's room because coal is scarce and money to buy is not plentiful. I understand they have not been holding Prayer Service since I left; they do not like to use the school room unless I am there too. I suggested they divide the congregation into groups and have neighborhood prayer meetings once a week.

I spent nearly five weeks there and had a class studying the prophecies of Daniel; we met Sunday afternoons and Wednesday or Thursday, taking a chapter each time we met. Miss Leake came home with three teams from here and of course the same three took me home again. My return trip was perfect in every way. I never saw abettertrail and the day was warm and sunny.

While I was in Savoonga the first time I practiced with the choir for the World Day of Prayer Meeting and Albert Kulowie took charge of it, as no Eskimo woman would do such a thing. Their collection was $10.81 and an attendance of 96. They were happy to have such a fine meeting.

Here we have an Eskimo young woman teaching the small childrenn on Sunday and so many of the mothers with babies and other small children used to go into that room and sit and let their children run wild while they visited with each other. They disturbed us so in the main room I spoke to the women once ortwice but they were having a good time and did not want to stop, and Ora could not manage the little ones while their mthers were with them disturbing the peace. The last of January, as they filed past the organ on their way out from their lesson, the thot came to me to have a class for the women with small children and teach them during the week. So that afternoon when the workers met in my quarters for prayer, I spoke to them about this and asked them to talk it over with the women. Some came in later and said the women wanted the class and some women evencalled too. So the next Thursday afternoon six women came and they gave splendid attention. I use Hurlbut's Story of th Nible for Children and give them all I caneach lesson. Some of them do not come on Sunday to the services but most of them are very faithfulin coming to their class and often speak about liking it very much. The man who interprets for most of our meetings also interprets for these mothes. At present (June 7th) we are studying the Old Testament and it has been interesting to see how closely they listen. Once in a while one of the women speaks about the lesson, but Eskimo women are supposed to be seen and not heard, so I am quite satisfied if they listen. When they come out in a storm for the lesson, I often serve tea, which they enjoy.

While I was gone Mrs. Hinckley took charge of this Mothers' Class for me and the choir practice for Easter singing. She and Mr. Hinckley sang too

with the choir, and served tea and cake to the choir after the last service that day. They have been splendid neighbors and I regret losing them this month, as they are transferred to the Government school at Albuquerque.

When I went away in January I had to leave the meetings in the care of our workers' group. Just before that we had begun to give Bible verses at Prayer Service- verses we found during our week's reading which had helped us. I led the meetings then and would give a short lesson, then the congregation would give the verses. In this way all, or nearly all, took part in the meeting, and they enjoyed it. So I suggested they take turns leading the mid-week meeting and continue the way we had been doing. They also took cahrge of the Sunday services. Paul, who is the official interpreter, took the Sunday school work for the older children and adults who meet together in the main room and Ora kept her small children who behave beautifully since I took their mothers away from that room. The afternoon service was led by one of the other Christian men. Mrs. Hinckley wrote me they had all been faithful and had the usual attendance for each meeting. One day in the winter one of my neighbors had called to visit and before leaving said she thot when I left there would not be many attnding church. I was glad to find out she was mistaken.

James, who has been a Christian for a longer time than any of the others on St. Lawrence Id., told me about Thomas, who came from Siberia not many years ago. He is one of the Workers. This is about the way James gave his report: "You know Thomas had never led a meeting; we thot he would not know how. But he wanted to lead so we let him and everything about his meeting was just as it should be- his Scripture lesson was fine, and the prayer he gave was splendid, the songs he chose were as they should be for that lesson. We were all surprised to have him do so well."

Our World Day of Prayer for Gambell went very well too. Our collection will be about ten dollars; it has not all come in yet. This year the trapping was poor, so the natives have not had much money. They got two whales and many walrus, so their cellars are well filled.

April 9th I went to Savoonga again intending to stay a month because Miss Leake had planned a lot of work to do here. It was whaling time and she had told me I might have to get a team from Savoonga to bring me back home and she would return with that team, as the Gambell men might be too busy to want to stop and make that round trip. One day she mentioned this to Mr. Hinckley and he took it for a message and gave it to Mr. Connelly, who in turn dashed over and delivered it to me. It came on Friday night, and I supposed something had come up to make her change her mind. I sent a message the next day that I'd return Monday, much to Miss Leake's surprise. When we met, we both concluded as neither of us wanted to go home, it was the Lord's doings and we both watched to find out why. I had an experience in a few days which I could not have had in Savoonga, so I am satisfied to have my visit shortened. Two weeks there are better than none.

This last time all the natives were in from their camps and the meetings were well attended. On Monday we started a Prayer Circle for the women and six came to the first meeting and nine the next week. They met with me while I was there and planned to meet in their homes afterward. The Savoonga people have not been in the habit of going around praying with the sick and those in trouble, as these Gambell natives do, so I urged them to start doing that and as I went to visit the sick I usually found one of the women of the Prayer Circle there helping.

Then the men organized their Prayer Circle of twelve, hoping some of the younger men would join them when fawning time is over, and they are back in the village again.

The people who had started studying Prophecy were eager to continue. We began with Revelation and had two meetings a week. I used Keith L. Brooks text book and left it with a fine native named, Alfred Tumblow, to use while I amaway from them. He has a very sick son and has to stay at home most of the time, so he has plenty of time to study. We limit the Prophecy class to those who can read and understand English without an interpreter.

I was in Savoonga for Easter and we had one week to practice the songs. All who had been in winter camps were happy to have a church of their own. They have had to sort of go "on their own" all the time and told me they were very glad to have my help. I think most of that group are sincere. Albert Kulowie is the leader and he is just as fine as he can be. He told me he thot some of the people claimed to be Christians but they used the old ways too- trying out both andbeing fearful of dropping the old worships etc. Now the Christians there are pretty well banded together and they have taken certain families to pray into the Kingdom as these Gambell natives have been doing for three years.

One day while there incame a medicine man- an old fellow who could talk very little English. He had two small boys with him to interpret. He began by telling me he had been singins (beating the drum and crying to bring something to pass as he wished) and he thot he was going to be punished for it The he recited some of the Commandments and some other sections or verses of the Bible. He said he knew them but did not know their meaning. The boys he hadbrot could not translate for him, so I urged him to get one of the older men to come with him and we would go ove the sections he wanted to understand. I have a Schofield Bible which is very helpful. The Sunday School lesson for the next day was just right for him to hear. He promised to come but he did not get there. I told Albert and one or two of the other men about his visit amd asked them to pray for him and talk with him when they got the chance. He seemed sincere and they should help him to believe on Christ.

Now school is out hereat Gambell and tomorrow the Northland may be in with the first mail. We are glad to know we shall have this building to ourselves from now on. Weare still using some of the school seats and desks in the main room and the small chairs in the beginners' room. I hope to be able to keep the chairs but today Mr. Hinckley said the seats would e used in school again this coming year. We need benches or pews and hope to get them this summer. Our congregation is increasing slowly all the time and our seats will accommodate 65 and we need all the school seats we can get.

Eskimo children are very destructive. Last fall the teachers and I did our best to get the two rooms in fine condition; now the main room looks quite battered, but it is cleared of all the shelves and tables and what-not that have cluttered the room heretofore. I am using the shelves for cupboatds in my kitchen.

Sunday afternoon before I left Savoonga in April, Nathan, a fine young man came to me and said, with tears in his eyes, "I want tobe a Christian more than anything else I can think of. What shall I do?" His mother is a Christian but his father, who has a good deal of influence there, says it is all right to be a Christian but they must not give up their worship of ancestors and for hunting. The Christians say, of course, that it is impossible to keep up those old customs and be Christians. Nathan went home happier than when he came. I have not heard from him since that day, but I feel certain he is faithful.

Possibly the progress made here, spiritually, has been slow but I feel it is encouraging. We had ten men whom we called Workers and for over three years they have been faithful as could be. Not long ago James said some of the other Christian men wanted to join this group; what did I think of the idea? I was not in favor of it, but thought they should decide that themselves; it might be better, even tho I did not want the change made. So I told them they must ~~all~~ speak to all whom them considered a Christians and invite them to join. They did this and 18 men came. James' idea is that they should meet with us and pray for certain ones as we have been doing- choose whom they want and then faithfully keep praying and trusting, then to begin leading mid-week services. It is working well to date and I think is a good thing for all of us.

This is a long report and at last I have come to a period and will use it. I am sending a copy of this to my two churches; Green Bay First Presbyterian Church and to Palo Alto.

Ann Bannon

Alaska Presbyterial Society

Mrs. E. E. Bromley, President
Hoonah, Alaska

Mrs. A. D. Swobber, Corresponding Secretary
Metlakatla, Alaska

Miss Ruth Farquharson, National Missions Treasurer
Haines, Alaska

Mrs. N. L. Troast, Foreign Missions Treasurer
Juneau, Alaska

Petersburg Alaska
May 18, 1938

Dear Miss Bannan,

Received your letter of Nov 2, '37.

I was quite interested in your suggestion that the Princeton should pay you a visit. There is nothing I would like to do better than that as I have never been west of Seward. The Princeton has not even been in the Gulf. However, the time & expense involved would in my judgement make the trip out of the question. I estimate that the round trip from Juneau would take 4 weeks solid running nite & day. At best we could not get away from here until after summer Y. P. conference which leaves us free about June 15.

I would prefer to have you ask the Board to authorize such a trip. If they authorize it I will gladly come

Yours in His service

Verne J. Swanson

BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

PERSONAL LETTER

Ann Bannan
St. Lawrence Island
Gambell, Alaska

June 7, 1938

(Received in New York City - June 27th)

Dear Friends:

The Hinckleys are leaving on the first boat, which we think will be the Northland tomorrow - not today as it is now 2 a.m. We had a radio message at ten p.m. saying they were having a good trip and would be here this morning. So we have to be ready with our mail.

I am very well and have been for some time. Winter was like spring much of the time, then when February was about to leave it began to get cold and to date it has been cold and little sunshine with plenty of storms.

Miss Leake, our new nurse, came over in November to help with a very sick patient and stayed until early in December. She helped me do up the natives' gifts and Mrs. Hinckley also came and worked with us. We all like Miss Leake very much. When she went home one of the native women said to her - "When you go to Gambell we think Miss Bannan ought to come here and stay." When Miss Leake wrote this to me I did not give it much thought except that I did not have fur clothing and could not leave my house and food to freeze up. After the holidays I began to think of it and at last the thought came to me to trade houses, food, and everything with her, then we would each be caring for the property of the other. I sent her a message and she replied she would exchange.

The Connellys, who are now teaching in Savoonga, sent me a parka, sleeping bag, mittens (fur) and Miss Leake loaned me a fur cap, hip boots of wolf skin and reindeer pants, and after putting on all these duds, I hauled on my own wind and waterproof parka, as it was a very cold day when I left here January 11th. I could hardly move when I got off the sled to call on campers enroute to Savoonga, but I certainly was not cold and enjoyed the trip very much, although the trail was rough as we went close to shore much of the way and the ice was very rough there.

I spent nearly five weeks in Savoonga and enjoyed it. When Miss Leake got there three of our men had come with her, so one took my baggage and another took me, and the third was along to guide us all I guess. Sometimes we would be riding three teams abreast with no dog fights, which I thought was most remarkable, as even the poorest dogs usually seem to be great fighters. The day was perfect and so was the trail, and I would not have missed that trip for a good deal. We stopped at two camps and had tea and visited awhile.

Mrs. Gallagher and I had often spoken about my going to Savoonga in winter but I thought I did not have warm enough fur clothing for such a long trip. Probably had I announced I was going to make the trip, the people would have offered the clothing I needed then as they did this year. One of the native men sent his new heavy deer parka for me to wear coming back from Savoonga.

Our World Day of Prayer Service was as usual with an attendance of 98 and about ten dollars collection. The Savoonga people had theirs too, and had 96 with $10.81 collection. This year the natives did not do as well trapping as usual, so the collection for the Island is very good.

I was at Savoonga again in April, and expected to stay a month but due to a mistake I was called home at the end of two weeks. It was a good thing I did not begin loafing as soon as I got there. I think though, the trip is hard for such a short stay. I was there for Easter.

The natives of Savoonga have always used the schoolroom for services, but last November when Mr. Hirst, the head of the educational department of the Office of Indian Affairs of Alaska, was at Savoonga, he told the natives they might use the room on the second floor for services, and might use a large heater not in use. So the change was made as soon as I went over in January. The upper floor had been used for a work shop and everything was cleared out. Then benches were fixed of planks belonging to the Reindeer Company, and the old organ was hauled upstairs and we had a fine place for our services on Sunday. The mid-week service was held downstairs in the primary room while I was in the village. Everyone is glad to have a room like this as the schoolrooms are not large enough to accomodate all the people there who come to church.

While I was away from here Mrs. Hinckley taught a Mothers' Sunday School class I had started shortly before leaving and she also helped the choir and sang with it on Easter, She served tea and cake to the choir after the last service Easter. Now the teachers are all packed and ready to leave, and we are all very sorry; they are splendid neighbors and teachers. They are transferred to Albuquerque and some of us who have watched them work are glad that their faithful service is still rewarded.

Teddy came in the other day with two dolls she had received at Christmas. She gave them to me and said "Now Miss Bannan, I want you to give these dolls away Christmas. Santa Claus gave them to me last year and I liked them very much, so that is why I want you to give them and not ask him to - he might think I did not like them." So we decided who should have the pretty doll with curls and the other one is to be my doll so when children come to visit with their parents, they may play with it.

Once in March I think, we had a "hook up" and the Connellys, we three here, the Barrow white folk and Flossie George, and some teachers at Noorvik talked for quite a while. All the others had the phones to use but Mr. Hinckley had to use code to reply. We all enjoyed it. We have had very poor radio reception this winter. I was starved for music and in March Mrs. Hicnkley gave me Brahms Symphony No. 1, C Minor, and as I have no victrola here, I hustled around and borrowed one from a native who had no use for it in winter as the winter home is too small for this large cabinet size. It was a lovely tone and we have enjoyed the music very much. I like to have it playing while I work.

Our natives caught two big whales in April and we all rejoiced. Eddie got the first one with just one bomb and of course that was a feather in his cap. He and his father did all the stunts the oldtimers used to always do at such a time and some young people who were visiting here at the time thought it was very amusing. Then the first time I went to Savoonga Charles, of whom I have written several times, caught one after many shots. He came down to Savoonga awhile later and called to tell me about it. He said they always arrange their whaling tackle on one side of the boat and always plan to strike the whale on the clear side of the boat. This whale came up on the loaded side and it was hard for them to kill it there, and also it was not a clear day for hunting. Charles said to me they had been so short of food he asked his wife, who had been asleep with the rest of the family, if she would get up and go outdoors with him to pray for food. She did as he requested and then they went to sleep. The next morning Charles and his crew got the whale, and all of the Christians were very happy to have him get it. Lawrence called that same evening after Charles had gone and I asked what Charles' in-laws, who are not Christians, did when he got the whale. Lawrence smiled and said: "They did nothing, but I heard Timcarew tell Apaata 'When Charles worshipped he never got a whale, but now that he is a Christian he got one'."

They have brought home many walrus this spring as well as mukluk and seals, so everyone has a good deal of food in the cellar. The Savoonga people have been coming over for food and getting it by the load from their friends.

Once I had a message from Mrs. Smith and she had just had a card from Mrs. Gallagher who had been with her family in Sweden but at the time she wrote she was touring Czecho Slovakia on a bicycle and was well and enjoying herself. We did not feel quite so far away when this message came to us. I must get some sleep so will close this with my best wishes and I hope to hear from you soon. The first mail is a very welcome one this year; I think because we have heard so little from the Outside this winter.

Very hastily yours,

ANN BANNAN

Gambell, Alaska, August 29,1938.

Mr. J. N. Somerndike,
156 Fifth A venue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

In the June mail I received your letters dated October 28th, November 12th, 20th and December 22d. Since then I have heard nothing from you. We got around thirty letters on two freighters and a trader from Nome and are now looking for the July and August mail which the Northland has on board.

I was very glad to have an increase in salary and also very grateful for it. My reports were on board the ship before I knew of this, so there was no changing them.

The S.S.Bering brought my supplies and took out mail. This time I got everything I had ordered and it all came in good condition.

Thru some error 19 rolls of malthoid were sent instead of four. I have turned eight over to the store to be applied on the Mission account. I am using some to finish the inside of the stormshed on the south side of my quarters and also upstairs om the ceiling of the big room, which now I need for a storeroom. I have written you that all the inside lumber that finished this room had been torn out years ago and used for fuel by a teacher named Doolsy. There was quite a pile of odds and ends of lumber on the floor and I decided this summer to get as much of the room enclosed with that as possible. Now the whole room is done and of course will make the whole building warmer. We used paper for the sloping sides of the room but have lumber on the sides nearest the floor and the ceiling. For the north end and east side we had boards one inch thick and the men put them on very nicely. The ceiling is decidedly hit Or miss. It is a large room and makes a good store room.

Charles was delighted to get your receipt for $16 for the fur he sent. He has written about prayers he has had answered and asked me to send it to you and it goes with this letter. He is still witnessing splendidly for his Lord and Master.

The stoves are very good looking and Saturday I had the smaller one put in the living room and it works very well. I wrote to you that I thot it could not be used as this chimney also had the range to care for. Mr. Daugherty (our new teacher) read the directions over and said he was certain the chimney was large enough to accommodate both stoves and it does.

The Hinckleys left June 9th and their understanding was that a new school house was to be built. They had been asked if there was sand on the island or would some have to be shipped in for

mixing with the cement. There is plenty of sand across the lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Daugherty, who taught at Barrow three years and had taken a year's leave of absence, came here July 15th and while they were in Juneau they were shown a message from Washington stating the school material for Gambell would be shipped in on a commercial ship. The reason it was not shipped on the North Star was they had to make changes in the plan. So he came in very confident the material would be along shortly. In about two weeks he got a message that they had decided to wait another year to build the $20,000 schoolhouse. You can imagine how we all felt. When this building has to be used for day school and our services too it is not convenient for either group.

Two weeks ago the natives finished shingling the house and last week Mr.Daugherty furnished lumber to brace up the middle of the main room. Last year when we changed the windows the natives thot they had braced the long spaces enough but this spring we began to notice it was sagging a bit in the middle of the ceiling. Jimmie wanted to put a four by four up there but I urged him to wait until the teacher came and we are all glad we waited,as Mr. Daugherty is an experienced carpenter and Friday taught the men how to do that work without a jack and furnished the lumber for the brace. Everyone is happy. When the men got done,they were tired and the five of them sat down to visit. During that time they told him some time ago they had changed the braces upstairs in that room, for some reason which no one seems quite sure of. Mr. Daugherty said that was probably the main reason why the ceiling had sagged and they seemed to agree. Now it is fine.

We plan to take the bell off the roof and have it handy away from the building. It is very heavy and the belfrey is crooked. Last year two men tried to repair it and they said the bolts had rusted and they thot it would not be safe up there much longer. They put in some spikes and got them nailed so the belfrey tips west. It has bothered me a lot and we are going to take it down and then cover the place where it was with malthoid.

The chimney is going to be built too as soon as the Northland brings us a sack of cement and that is going to be outside so it wont interfere with any of us inside the main room. We are all happy to have the house look so nice and also that we are comfortable in it. We had to use two tiles last fall and whatever we could get for the chimney and it has leaked all the year and ruined several lengths of pipe. We think we will have a better draft and also a drier chimney if it is built outside the house.

Kukulik is an old village- probably one of the earliest on the Island and no one lives there now. The Alaska College has some buildings there and the plan is to keep them and excavate there some more. This summer someone discovered an older village and probably Dr. Rainey and some young men from College will be here next summer.

The Savoonga natives wanted to tear down the building and haul the lumber to Savoonga and build a chapel but they could not buy it. I have written you about the present arrangement for a place to have services at Savoonga. Mr. Hirst offered it to us and we are glad to have it, but of course it is in the Government building and any

one may use it when he wants to.

The Catholics have not givenu p the idea of coming here. This summer, when the Northland came the latter part of June to get work done here, the Connellys, Savoonga teachers, said they shot I was going Out this summer. They said instantly he said "If she goes Out the Catholics will be in, as they are just waiting for her to leave." He said he would see me and talk with me. But that time the two large rooms were used as a hospital and the doctor removed 14 sets of tonsils in the primary room, which we had scrubbed up, and the patients were put to bed on two benches which we placed together, and they brot their own bedding and stayed there twentyfour hours. He came in to my house twice to see me but the rooms were full and we could not visit. I, of course, did not know what had been said at Savonga but I said I planned to stay in this year and take my furlough the fall of 1939. He said if I could be ready when they came along on their way to Seattle, about the 20th of September, they would take me direct to Seattle. I was so surprised, I turned to the Executive Officer, who was standing by and asked him to witness that statement, as it would help me very much not to have to go to Nome and wait for a ship.

Father Hubbard, who wintered at King Id. last year was still up in the Arctic a couple of weeks ago. We have heard he was coming here but all hope he will go Outside. All winter he was doing all sorts of things for publicity.

I think the commander of the Northland will know what is going on but after he comes and I get a chance to talk with him, there will be no time for me to write to you so I am unloading all this on you now.

Mr. Daugherty has suggested, as the mission building belongs to the Presbyterian Board, and not the Government, that I go to Savoonga and work this winter, in case the Catholics come over. I'll be allowed to hold services as usual in the school there and the priest will also have the privilege of doing the same. But if he decides to come here and wants to hold meetings in our building Mr. Daugherty will refuse, as it is not a Government building and we do not want services other than our own held here. Our natives do not want a change. For years they have refused to have anything to do with the Catholics who have been here and kept writing to them and sending literature.

The Savoonga natives are younger than these and they are anxious to have a worker from the Board there, to be like Gambell. They may, for that reason, fall for whatever comes in there. I spent one week there this July and have not been able to go back again. Miss Leake and I plan to exchange houses etc. as we did last year. Of course if some priest comes to the Id. and stays, then we wont exchange as before. She is a Catholic and it would not be wise for her to be too friendly with the Protestants. Id have to rent a native house during trapping season. Possibly I can board with the teachers but I never could live in their house.

I sincerely hope there will be no need of me staying over there this winter but we have been forced to dwell on the subject from the different things we have heard and this is what we have planned to do if we have to.

This church has never been organized and that is too bad and the Catholics can come back to us on this score, as I've been here four years September 29th, which should be plenty of time for that.

Last fall, as the North Star was waiting to discharge cargo, I suddenly got the idea to write to Mr. Swanson and ask him if he would come here when the ice went out in June and help out. I thought he would take the matter up with you, as I knew I could do nothing about such a thing. I wrote so he could think it over and get in touch with you. The Hinckleys knew him and they thought the Princeton was able to make the trip but they were not certain. I am enclosing his reply. I thot if he felt he wanted to or could make the trip he would get in touch with you.

As soon as the Northland comes, if I hear the Klerekopers are going Out, I shall send them a message asking them to come here and help me. He should understand what I want done. He can go Out from here on the Boxer, which will be along in September or October. If we send any message anywhere everybody who has a radio knows all about it, and I prefer that the whole Territory does not know our church is not organized here on the Island.

I appreciate what you said in your letter of Nov. 12th regarding my work here. It still seems to me a couple here would be more satisfactory in many ways, as the man could do the traveling and keep both churches going as they should, while in winter his wife could keep the home fires burning and attend to the services here. I am not at all anxious to leave, as I like it very much and I am happy here. I was just considering the work.

I am not going to have the stain put on this year. It is late now and in the spring we think it will be better to stain it. It will be nice longer.

Today the choir girls came and scrubbed the two floors in the school rooms and Mr. Daugherty gave us paint which two of the young men put on. The stoves were cleaned and set up again, and I hauled out nearly all of my supplies that I had stored in the primary room.

I have turned the medical work over to the teachers, who wanted it and that relieves me of quite a bit of work and many interruptions. I had to enlarge my kitchen a little this summer as it was too uncomfortably warm this xxxxxx year, and this gives me part of the dispensary in the kitchen and the rest of it will be used to hang parkas in. It is an improvement all around.

I note that Capt. Backland changed $4 for the case of potatoes he sold me for $3 and that is just exactly why that young man has lost out up this way. He had a splendid business several years ago. You must have noticed quite a difference in the freight rates this summer.

This is a long letter but I felt I must write as I have incase I have to send word later in the fall that I have moved to Barrow to work. The Christians here can carry on and both Mr. and Mrs. Daugherty will help them gladly. Mrs. Daugherty is a Sunday School teacher now and is helping the native girl who has the primary room. Later, when Ora has more confidence, Mrs. Daugherty will take a class of older children, who now are

staying in the main room with the adults and possibly are not getting all they should from our S.S. lessons.

Mr. Daugherty has let me have putty,and nails I get from the store. Backland did not leave those you sent last year. Mr. D- said the other day that he thought the Government expected to help keep this building in repair. I have not hesitated in the least asking for what I needed. It is so inconvenient to have to share the building, I feel it he is no more than right to get their help in this way.

I am very well. Much has been done this summer about the building and every one has been splendid about helping- unbelievers and Christians haveworked together cheerfully, and all seem happy when something is done that makes the building look better and to be more comfortable.

La or Day we plan to have a holiday and play games and gave a good time. The Fourth so many were sick we did not celebrate. All the rest of the summer it has rained and we are hoping the fifth of September will be grand.

The Daugherties have taken many moving pictures of Barrow and of their vacation trips and shown them several times. The directors of the store got busy and ordered some films- educational ones- and we expect to have good times this winter. They plan to charge a small amount each time the new films are shown and in the spring buy more. We are interested in mission movies and hope to get some in the summer. Will you send a catalog or list of those our Board puts out. We want only educational films. The boats have come at such dates we have not beenable to send mail out this summer as conveniently as other years.

With best personal wishes to you and yours, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ann Bannan

Gambell,Alaska,October 3,1938.

Mr. J. M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

The North Star is expected in soon and it may be our last ship of the season. We have all been writing for all we are worth lately,trying to get as much mail as possible out this fall.

I am not sending an order for food this time. I think I have enough,or can get what I need here,to last until fall. If someone comes to take my place next summer, have her do the ordering. Incase I should stay on another year, and I shall do that if I am well, I'll send you a message in March or April and you may duplicate the order for 1937 I'll enclose the copy of that. I have not time to copy it over.

I believe seven tons of coal will be enough for a year. I had some left this spring and I am not using much now. I do-ubt 15 drums of oil being enough for the two stoves- in case the school is built and we have to furnish ~~xxx~~ fuel for the stove in main room. No one knows whether the school will ever be built. If there is a war I feel certain it wont be built.

I wrote you about the situation here and that we are urged to have someone here on the spot before I leave for my furlough. We all keep thinking of the situation and ideas come to us, of course. I suggested a married couple,as the solution of it.

Mr. Daugherty,who is very level headed, said the other day that he thot the best way would be for one worker to spend two months here then go to Savoonga for two months. He thinks that length of time better,as it would allow more time for teaching in each place and the natives would be more apt to carry on aftert wo months' teaching than one month. It sounds reasonable to me.

He said he thot the Board ought to provide a ~~h~~ home for the worker in Savoonga. There is an empty house in the village,which may be for sale and could be moved over nearer the teacherage and schoolhouse,away from the dogs and noise of the village. That might be worth fixing up but I'd have to find out about it when I go next time. An oil range would heat the house and be satisfactory. While Miss Leake stays,I am welcome to stay in her house,but she would not want to exchange every two months. She has been here about two months this whole year.

This is just a suggestion and I wanted to pass it on while I could write about it and a message toward spring will not be so long.

I do not want to go Outside until fall,as the heat of Wisconsin is unbearable in summer.

These teachers are very congenial and Mrs. Daugherty teaches a Sunday School class in my living~~in~~ room,which gives this teen age group more attention and help than they would get in the main room. The children seem delighted with the idea.

With best wishes for the winter season, I am

Sincerely yours,

Anna Bamsdell

Schwabacher Bros. & Co. Incorporated

Manufacturers, Importers & Tobacconists

Wholesale Grocers

300-302-304-306-308 Occidental Ave. cor. Main St.

Seattle, Wash.

MAY 20 1937

Established 1869
Telephone
Main 3624

Sold to

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION
GAMBELL ST LAWRENCE ISLAND
ALASKA

Interest invariably charged on all overdue accounts.
In making claims or ordering same goods, please give date of invoice
We do not insure delivery or safe carriage of goods. We ship and take receipt in good order and goods are at your risk after such receipt is signed by transportation company

Terms _____ Payable in Seattle Exchange

M/S HOLMES — MISS ANN BANNAN

1	Cs	SANKA COFFEE 12/1	12		40	4 80
1	"	12/8 Oz POSTUM	1	4	65	4 65
5	#	GOLD SHIELD COFFEE 1	5		27	1 35
3	"	LIPTON Y L TEA	3		74	2 22
9	Cs	TALL CARN MILK	9	3	25	29 25
50	#	DARIGOLD BUTTER IN BRINE	50		38 1/2	19 25
1	Cs	SPL EGGS PROC	30		29	8 70
3	Sk	50 BERRY SUGAR	150		6	9 00
1	Cs	C H G C SUGAR 24/1	24		6 3/4	1 62
~~1~~	~~CAN~~	~~2½ ROYAL BAK POWD~~	1		90	90
1	BBL	4/49 G M FLOUR	1	9	50	9 50
2	Sk	9 YC MEAL	2		40	80
4	6	SNOWDRIFT	4	1	15	4 60
5	#	HAPPY HOME P N BUTTER 1	5		20	1 00
1	Bx	" " EV WH FIGS	25		12	3 00
2	"	" " RAISINS 25	50		6 7/8	3 44
1	"	MAD EV APRICOTS	25		14 3/4	3 69
2	2	HAPPY HOME EV APPLES	4		21	84
3	1½	" " " PEACHES	3		20	60
1	Cs	3S ASST FRUIT 2½	2	2	15	4 30
1	"	HAPPY HOME GR FRUIT 2	2	1	35	2 70
1	"	" " CRU PAPPLE 2	2	1	65	3 30
1	"	" " TIDBITS 8Oz	4		77 1/2	3 10
1	Bx	30/40 IT PRUNES	25		5 3/4	1 44
1/2	Dz	28 Oz WHEAT HEARTS	1/2	2	60	1 30
1/2	"	QUAK PUFF WHEAT	1/2		90	45
1/2	"	~~LG ROMAN MEAL~~	1/2	3	20	1 60
1	Cs	CHALL PEAS 2	2	1	25	2 50
1	"	HAPPY HOME WH CARROT 2	2	1	90	3 80
1	"	" " KRAUT 2	2	1	20	2 40
2	TIN	GOLD SHIELD CELERY SEED 2 Oz	2		12 1/2	25
1	"	" " NUTMEG 8Oz	1		25	25
1	Cs	CAMP TOM SOUP 48/1	1	3	30	3 30
1	"	12 Oz PETERSON RY KRISP	1	3	60	3 60
1	Gal	~~HAPPY HOME OLIVE OIL~~	1	3	20	3 20
1	"	JONES CIDER VINEGAR	1		50	50
1	Cs	HAPPY HOME MAHONNAISE 12 Pt	1	2	85	2 85
1	BT	GOLD SHIELD VANILLA 8Oz	1		70	70
5	#	KRAFT AMER CHEESE	5		28	1 40
~~1~~	~~Cs~~	~~HORMEL WHOLE HAMS~~	~~60~~		~~41~~	~~24 60~~
1 1/2	Oz	1 LIBBY CORN BEEF	1 1/2	2	20	3 30
1 1/2	"	1/2 W S TUNA	1 1/2	1	90	2 85
3		HORMEL CHICKEN	9 1/2		48	4 35
2		~~HORMEL BACON~~	13		46	5 98
10	#	EMERALD # 1 S S WALNUTS	10		18	1 80
25	#	LITTLE BUSTER POP CORN	25		10	2 50
35	#	VIRG 1 RAW PNUTS	35		10	3 50
~~1~~	~~Cs~~	~~#5 BRER R GOLD MOLASSES~~	~~1~~	~~6~~	~~90~~	~~6 90~~
1	Bx	JERSEY CREAMS	19		14	2 66
						210 59

Subject to a Cash Discount of 1%

Gambell, Alaska, October 12, 1938 .

Mr. J. M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

Very likely this is my last volume this season and you should rejoice. Two days ago the fan belt on the engine broke and so far the men have been unable to rig up another so we cannot send or receive radio messages and wont know when the North Star is to arrive until we see her.

I am enclosing the September report. This summer the herders have worked more with the deer than other years and last Sunday many of the congregation had to help with the round-up and butchering, so the attendance was very small. But when the people get back to the village they always seem glad to attend services. The Christians have usually been very faithful. Now fewer unbelievers attend the services. The first year everyone piled in. The Christians tell me when they stop at the camps enroute to Savoonga, at tea time their hosts, who are unbelievers, say to them "Say your prayer; it will be all right with me."

The more I think of Mr. Daugherty's plan, which I wrote you about last month, the better I like it. I asked Jimmie this morning about the house I had in mind at Savoonga and he said it belonged to Olin, who at one time wanted Jimmie to move into it and live in Savoonga. Jimmie said it was a good house about 14 by 18 feet, five windows full length and it ~~xxx~~ had three layers of boards.

When I told him Mr. Daugherty's suggestion, he seemed very glad and said he thought that was a good idea. He thought Olin would not ask much for the house. He had turned it over to a widow and asked at that time $100 for it; she paid about fifty, Jimmie thot, and could not live in the place as she could not get fuel for it. She had two boys but both died this summer of T.B. and now she wont consider living in it. When I go over I'll see what can be done about it and will try to send a message by amateur radio; if not, I'll send it collect.

Jimmie says he knows the men there will be so glad to have someone with them half the year they will gladly do the work of fixing the house up. He suggested putting on a good storm shed the width of the house and having it hauled down near the school house and teacherage.

I suggest you send in an oil range- which will heat the little house well and be better than a heater. The teachers at Savoonga have one and it is splendid for baking and cooking and also to heat the rooms. I think it would be well to tear out the inside lumber and use it for a partition or cupboards and get some wall board the native store has to sell, which is very thick. It would not take much for such a small house and it would save fuel.

I realize I was not very definite regarding my furlough If you get someone to take my place, have her come up in June on the first passenger ship and the Northland will bring her over. Then I'll go over to Savoonga and get that place ready while she gets acquainted here, and she may come over there later and stay most of the summer, getting back here early in September and stay until after Christmas, then returning to Savoonga for a month or two and work here a while again. Many of the

Savoonga families leave the village in August or early September for their winter camp, so itwould be best for the worker to spend most of the summer there and a short time in winter or early spring,as she thinks best. She can figure out the time to give six months in each village.

If no one comes in to take my place I'll stay on. I'm bringing all these things up while I can write them instead of later by radio. I've sent Miss Vint a list of things we would need over there and she mayget a chance to pass on some ~~things~~ to the women who write asking what to send us.

The Savoonga people have been short of food nearly all summer. Jimmie told me they were taking a mouthful of blubber in the morning and a small amount of leaves,which the women pick and pack away in barrels or seal pokes, and they work all day at whatever they have to do,then at night take another little bit of blubber and leaves. They got few foxes last year and hunting there has not been good this year; all are deep in debt at their store. I have plenty of coal so if the North Star comes here first,I am thinking of sending over one ton of coal for the church use this winter. Miss Leake told Albert, who is the head one there among the Christians, she would give him the job of painting her house and pay him in coal this year,but the house was not to be painted until next spring. He agreed to do the work but I do not know how much coal he would get. It seemed to me a rather uncertain thing to do,as hewould not know how long it would take him to do the job. She was thinking of helping out with the coal for church.

I believe if the Board sent the stove and oil and a good gasoline or kerosene lamp I could scare up the rest of the things we'd want. We might have to have a gallon of floor paint but I think I can manage the other paint for the inside of the building.

Now as to the food supply: I suggest you show her the list I sent you and have her add to it what she wants and tell her not to get cans larger than number 2 and the vegetables and tomato juice that come in ~~the~~ cases 48 to the case are better for one person,as there is less waste. Then we get the fresh things in the fall from Polet,but tell her if she wants them in summer to bring them ~~fruit~~ with her,as it will be cheaper, and then other summer vegetables will be brot over from Unalaklest by the Northland and that is excellent and cheap too. By"with her" I should have said,get it in Seattle and send it in with the other freight. It will get here after she comes but I have quite a lot left.

I'll copy a list for myself,in case I do not go out Next year and enclose it with this. I can think of nothing else to write now.

Yours truly,

Ann Bannan

Oct. 15th I want to thank you again for sending the oil heater for my living room; it certainly is a joy forever and I like it immensely. I think a smaller stove would have been right for the room,as I keep this one turned down as low as I can and often the room is too hot so I turn it off for hours. I've used just one tank of oil since August 27th.

I sent Albert a message about the coal I could send from here and he replied that the store was giving the church one tone of coal and he thot that would be plenty.

BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND
Gambell, Alaska

October 12, 1938

(Received in New York City - November 10)

Dearest Friends:

We have been expecting three ships this month but now we seem certain only of t the "North Star", which was at Nome today getting cargo for King Island and after delivering the people and supplies she will come here within a day or two on her way to Seattle.

I have so many letters to answer that I am adding the names of new correspondents to my letter list and settling it this way. It is just impossible to get all the mail attended to. I thoroughly enjoyed the letters I received this summer and I hope you will not stop writing to me. I want to know what you are doing and what interests you will also interest me. The hardest thing I have found to endure here is this - after waiting months and months planning on hearing from the friends I long to hear from, only to receive a Christmas greeting with just a signature. If there is anything that is more disheartening I have yet to discover it.

I hope next year there will be very few repairs necessary to be made on this building. The outside walls are all shingled now and a large room upstairs has been boarded up so I have another store room. So many friends have sent us gifts this year, the mission store room is full to overflowing. The natives will have a splendid time Christmas, thanks to your kindness.

The Seattle Presbyterial Society sent us an organ, which we have longed for and are so very happy to have. The tone is lovely. They also sent a large rug for my living room and several books of good records, besides milk, mandarin oranges and clothing, etc. Everyone was as excited and happy as I when we heard there was an organ on the "Northland" for us.

Mrs. Gallagher made her trip around the world and when she got back to Seattle in June, the Hinckleys, Smiths, Troutmans and she met and had some good times together. I wish I could have been with them, too. She is to be at Iliamna, which is in Alaska, west of Seward.

The last of June the "Northland" returned to do medical work. We had scrubbed up the primary room to be used as an operating room and the doctor removed fourteen pairs of tonsils. We put two benches together and the parents brought bedding for their children, and there they stayed over a day in the main room, which made a very good ward. During the afternoon some people came to take care of them and at night other women stayed. There was a lot of work lined up to be done, but the doctor had to leave too soon. I think the dentist got most of his work done. The 4th of September when they called again, two children had chicken pox and no one could go out on the ship, so no eyes were taken care of. They called again the 12th but the sea was so rough, after waiting a day, on they went. We were very anxious to send mail out that time, but could not.

I went over to Savoonga for a week in July and had a good change. While there, a new cutter - the Spencer - came back of the island to Gambell and we knew nothing about it. Sunday morning, about time for church, we heard a motor and there very close, was an aeroplane coming up from Kukuliak . We rushed around hoping it would land, but it went right on toward Gambell and we spent the rest of the day wondering where it came from and what it was here for. Charles, and several of our natives, were in Savoonga and after our morning service Charles said, as he watched the plane coming toward them, many people rushed out of their homes but some did not wake up, and he thought of the coming of Christ - some will be ready waiting and watching for Him, others will not be ready. *

Charles took his whole family to Boxer Bay last fall where he has a camp, and his ten year old daughter Helen had infantile paralysis. She is not able to walk, but can creep some. It seems strange she should have it way off there, and no one else in the family had it.

* The Spencer, we learned later, had come to Gambell Saturday evening but it was too rough so she moved to a more sheltered place and on Sunday the men came ashore and the plane made the trip around the island. She did not stop at Savoonga.

On June 9th Moses Okota came back from Unalaska, walking and very happy, but the last of July he was helpless for a few weeks. Just now he is some better. We are all sorry; he is just fine and very patient; everyone likes him. The executive officer of the "Northland" said that the people in Unalaska did not want him to come home but to stay with them. Moses told me some of my friends had written to him and he was pleased to get their letters, and a radio message from the Smiths.

Herbert, the young lad who had mastoid in 1936, now is at Unalaska. We expect he will be there until next June. His ear never healed.

Mr. and Mrs. Daugherty, our present teachers and their four year old son, Neal, and we were all glad to welcome them. They taught three years at Barrow and took last year off. I have enjoyed visiting with them about the friends farther north whom we know. They have been showing their movies and after the natives saw the jumping board and the swings and slides the Barrow children had, they began asking for some, too. Now they have a jumping board and sort of a merry-go-round, but there is no material here for the slide; that will come later. Mr. Daugherty said the other day, during a class, he happened to look out of a window and there were two old women on the merry-go-round having the time of their lives.

The directors of the cooperative store were so interested in the movies, they have ordered some films - educational - for winter use and we all plan to get more in the spring. They are ordering 16 mm. so if any of you have some to pass on, we shall be glad to have them. We prefer only educational films. It will be an excellent way to educate our people; there are so many things they must have pictures to help them understand.

You who are interested in Eskimos should read Peter Frauchen's book - "My Life in the Frozen North". Things I have wondered about ever since my first year up here, he explains. As he has lived with the Greenland Eskimos and speaks the language, he should understand them.

I have been very well this year. I plan now to take my furlough next fall and I hope to return after furlough.

The new $20,000 school building will not be built until next year, so we have school in the mission building as usual. Everyone was disappointed, of course, when the message came with this news.

The Christian native men have been taking charge of the Wednesday Prayer Service and they are doing very well. Each man has led once and we are starting the second round and I have been surprised to have the leaders do so well. Last week a young man named George had charge of the meeting and it was splendid in every way. His two sisters are Christians; they are the ones who told me the first fall I was here they had promised their father they never would change their belief, but they did and Eda is especially fine. George told me one day when he called that some young man asked him why he did not use tobacco. George said, "I told him I had no desire to use it; Jesus was sweeter to me than any rich food or tobacco." Their mother has not changed and she is making it hard for the three young people, but I think they will keep their Christian faith.

If some of the societies, which have been sending us packages, care to save transportation charges, send your oder to the Bon Marche or Rhodes Store, Seattle, and either one will fill the order and pay transportation charges. Both stores are reliable.

October 3rd the new C.G.C. Hamilton called here and of course the sea was rough, but the doctor and two or three other officers came ashore and while the doctor worked, we all visited. We had a lot of mail ready so that was taken out on the ship. The doctor told us Herbert was to be taken to Juneau, as the doctor at Unalaska felt he could not operate that ear. He will be in the Government Hospital. It is a serious case. Please remember him.

Wishing you all a very generous amount of our Father's richest blessings, I am

Sincerely yours,

ANN BANNAN

1 Thess. 4:13-17
Matthew 25: 1-13

P.S. In case you fail to get two letters a year from me, please notify Miss Vint, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

P.S. October 11, 1938: We got word the last of September that the North Star would be here the 3rd of October, so I wrote as hard as I could and the 2nd I stayed up until 1:15 a.m. to finish my general letter. That morning we heard that the North Star was still in Nome but was going to go to King Island and Teller, and would be here around the 10th or 12th of the month. The new Hamilton came on the 3rd and took the four bags of mail we had ready.

* * * * * * * * * * *

P.S. October 12, 1938: Plans are under way to get an unused house at Savoonga and fix it up for the worker so that she may spend half the year there and half here. We should have things to furnish it. I have table linen enough for both places, but would need bedding and curtains; washable ones for the kitchen end of the house and something bright - yellows and blues, orange, etc. for the others. There are five windows, 6 1/2 ft. long, in the house. If the material is wide, it can be cut in two for that will be wide enough.

I've been thinking since I wrote my general letter, that if some of the societies want to send money, I can get tea, coffee, sugar, dried fruit here to put into the boxes for the natives. They also have hard crackers, called "pilot bread". The natives always like laundry soap too, which I can get here.

* * * * * * * * * * *

P.S. October 15, 1938: Two or three days ago we got a message from the North Star which we have been expecting weekly since the last of September, that she would not be here until a week or ten more days and tonight we got word that she was to sail from Teller on Monday, would be here Tuesday and in Savoonga on Wednesday.

I cannot begin to tell you the pleasure I am getting from the records that were sent us by the Seattle Presbyterial Society. As soon as the mail leaves and we get balanced again, Mrs. Daugherty and I are going to entertain one large family or two small ones each week in the Primary room, giving them music part of the time, then expecting them to visit with us a while, feed them cookies and tea, milk to the children and "Good Night" about nine o'clock. In this way we both will be doing what we should do and having the fun of working together. That room can be changed into a living room easily and quickly. Nothing of the sort has been done here before, so it should go over fairly well.

Please suggest money for good films 16 mm. when you are urged to tell of our needs; we do so want the natives to see things and to know more of what is going on. I presume if all of Europe is fighting the Americans will be hanging on to their pocketbooks and Eskimos will be considered luxuries and left alone. Reading does not mean much to them when they cannot visualize trees, factories, bridges, automobiles and trains, etc.

May the Father bless you abundantly all the time. Love to you.

Ann Bannan

October 25, 1938

Miss Ann Bannan
Gambell
St. Lawrence Island
Alaska.

Dear Miss Bannan:

I have been reading with a great deal of interest your letter of August 29th. I am sorry about the mistake in sending you too large a quantity of the malthoid material, but since you have been able to put it to such good use in making your quarters a little more snug and windproof, I am glad that the mistake was made.

We hope that the stoves will prove to be just what you have needed and that you will be a little more comfortable this winter because of them.

I am glad that you have found Mr. and Mrs. Daugherty so friendly in trying to help you in the work at Gambell. I do not know Mr. Daugherty, personally, but I do know that he and Dr. Greist got along together very well at Barrow. It appears, however, that after Dr. Greist left Barrow Mr. Daugherty became involved in a quarrel with Lieutenant Morgan at Barrow and that things became so unpleasant for all concerned that the Government sent investigators up to Barrow during the past summer to try to straighten things out. I presume that the transfer of Mr. and Mrs. Daugherty to St. Lawrence Island was one result of this investigation. From all that I could learn it appeared to be quite clear that it was impossible for the Daughertys, the Morgans and the Browers and other white people in Barrow to live together in harmony. I am telling you these things not because of a prejudice against the Daughertys and certainly not for the purpose of influencing you against them, or to cause you to be suspicious of them. I felt, however, that you ought to know these facts. I am not so sure that it is wise for you to turn over the work at Gambell to the Daughertys and transfer your efforts and residence entirely to Savoonga. You have established the work on a good basis at Gambell and we very much rather have you stay by that field and continue to strengthen the Christians there, in the hope that their influence will in time be effective in Christianizing people at Savoonga, rather than to leave the people at Gambell to carry on the work upon their own responsibility, since they are babes in the Christian faith and so are greatly in need of the Christian culture that you can give them so much better than the Daughertys are able to do. I doubt whether your fear that the Catholics may establish themselves in Savoonga would be sufficient reason for forsaking the work at Gambell now. If the Catholics come into Savoonga, anyway, you might find it difficult to develop a work there and during your absence from Gambell you might lose much that has been accomplished through the faithful work that you have done there. We hope that you will act upon this advice.

We doubt the advisability of Mr. Swanson's making a trip to St. Lawrence Island now on the Princeton, as you have suggested. I think he realizes, as we do, the peril of such a trip and also the expense. It seems to us that it would be a better arrangement to have Mr. Yousl, who makes an airplane trip to Wales each year, arrange to take the plane from Wales to St. Lawrence Island and spend a little time with you. I shall correspond with him about it and ascertain whether this would be practicable.

I note from your letter that you are planning to come out in August, 1939, for your furlough. We ought to have some one on the field during your absence, and I would be very grateful for any suggestions that you may make concerning a substitute. Have you anyone in mind who would be willing to take your place during your furlough year?

Regarding the matter of a church organization at Gambell, I suggest that you write to Rev. John E. Youel, Fairbanks, Alaska, who is the Chairman of the National Missions Committee of the Yukon Presbytery, and tell him how many persons you have who are ready to join the church as charter members, and ask him what arrangement the presbytery can make to organize the church in the regular way according to the requirements of our Presbyterian form of government.

I am glad that you have the prospect of having some moving pictures this winter. I am enclosing a catalogue of films that are available from our Board and the Board of Foreign Missions. You may look over this catalogue and select some films that you would like to have. I have also asked our Department of Publicity to let me have some films that they are not using currently and if they will release a few, I will send them to you without waiting for further word from you.

I was very much interested in the letter written by "Charles". His faith in God's willingness to help him in material ways has been abundantly rewarded.

Faithfully yours

HMS-P

Enc.

COPY

Gambell, Alaska, January 16, 1939.

Mr. J. M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

We are looking for a plane from Nome to bring Mrs. Daugherty home and 300 pounds of mail too, so everyone is writing letters to send back. I am enclosing three sets of monthly reports and will mention a few things in this report.

You will note I am not doing much with the choir. The young men are busy trapping and hunting and they have not wanted to practice, but a few of them did manage to practice a few times for the Christmas program. The girls are very faithful but this year two dropped out on account of new babies, which the Island women think they must hold or fuss with all the time; everything else just waits until later on. There are no other girls to ask to sing. I decided about a year ago that I'd let the members of the choir take it as easily as they wished and I'd give the whole congregation stiffer Bible lessons.

This fall we began studying Revelation, using Arno C. Gaebelein's book, and the natives seem very interested in it. I had a text book of Mrs. Daugherty's which helped me some too. We have gone slowly and this period is called our afternoon service. I am going to try to get four lessons ahead for the interpreter to give while I am in Savoonga next month.

The Christian men are still taking charge of our Wednesday Prayer Service and they are doing very well too. They are thinking of whaling season and walrus hunting and asked me to lead, but I suggested we get the young women who are Christians to take their turn in the spring; it will give them the experience and training they need. Some of them now give their Bible verse in English then translate it quite readily. I take the meeting only when the leader has failed to get here in time for the service. The men hunt all the time except Sunday. When the wind is from the wrong direction here for good hunting, they walk over the mountain to the other side and hunt for seals or birds, and if they get anything, they haul it home themselves.

You will note the attendance is not as high as it has been. Naturally, I regret this, as I am working harder than ever to keep the people interested. I think it is because those who were curious have been satisfied and stay away now. The people who had Dr. Campbell's thorough training are remaining faithful in attendance, and most of his converts have returned to the fold and are at least trying to be true. For years the Christians and unbelievers have not mixed much. But this winter both groups have been attending the weekly movies and I've talked of the feasts other natives have together on Thanksgiving and Christmas, hoping to get these natives to do the same but they would not. Mr. Daugherty began where I left off on this subject and Thanksgiving the school girls prepared a stew of dried vegetables, rice and reindeer meat and cooked it the day ahead, so it would only have to be warmed for Thursday afternoon and it spoiled. When they went to see it, the whole mass was bubbling and they threw it out. Another group got busy and cooked some more and about 175 natives sat and enjoyed it. The mayor called on Mr. Daugherty and asked if they might have another feast

on Christmas Monday and the older girls who do not attend school did the work. I think there were not quite as many present this last time as before but they all seemed very happy.

The Daugherties have a Philco radio with the victor attachment and that was brot over for Thanksgiving and left in the school room, so each time they meet they have the records to listen to and the music is very lovely.

Our family parties had a good start abo t the time Mrs. Daugherty had to be hustled off to Nome. Mr. Daugherty and I carried on and Miss Leake furnished the refreshments for one then we stopped for Christmas week and the next week the weather was so bad we all thot it best to postpone the party and last week Mr. Daugherty was under the weather and we had no party. Now one is expected some time soon and I'll see what she does about it and if they want to drop it, I'll keep on and entertain by myself as I want to have them all in, before I leave. The natives who did come enjoyed it very much. We try to fix up the primary room as a living room and serve tea, cookies or sandwiches and milk after we have visited and the children have played and the older people are thru visiting. We asked the largest families first and later will take two or three of the small families.

These parties are needed here, as the people have evidently not had such things and acted more like a herd of wild reindeer than like real honest-to-goodness-human-beings. Mr. Daugherty was horrified, after one movie entertainment he gave, to see everybody pushing and crowing like mad to get out of the room, knocking some over and banging into the seats; some jumping over the seats and all yelling and excited. He said to me "My goodness! I never saw anything like that performance. Why do they do that way?" I told him he should have been here five years ago; they were much worse then. He began teaching the school children how to enter a room and to sit down and also after the meeting to get out of the building, then he wrote a little play showing how the crowd acted and then the correct way of doing, and it went over very quickly. He talked to the parents, whom he had invited to see the play, and since then it has been better. They have ushers for the movie entertainments and each person is seated and they all go out quietly. The men (goats) sit on one side of the building and the women (sheep) on the other. I have talked about the families sitting together so both parents can take care of the children, but the men did not want to have anything like that to do, so no change was made. For the school program Christmas Eve, the ushers seated the families together and strange to say, everyone liked it and they looked so pleased we were glad to have put that over. Now for our church services it is impossible to seat them this way because the room is quite full of school desks and seats and our benches are placed wherever there is room enough for them. We hope when the new school is built to be rid of the desks, and then begin a different system. The older natives want to do the right thing, but the younger people seem to feel they'd rather die than fall in line, so they act like a very lawless set of outlaws quite often.

The Daugherties are splendid people and they are quiet in their manner, which goes a long way with the Eskies and I think they all like these new people here. They have been in Alaska some time and were well liked in Chungnak and at Barrow. Certainly they have been splendid in doing fine things for the natives and the children now are digging in and working harder in school.

This winter has been much colder than any I have experienced here. The snow came early and the cold has continued steadily for weeks. The trapping is excellent; it was very poor last year but this year some natives

had nearly 200 pelts at Christmas time; a very few had not one. The latter did not get the deer for bait,on account of stroms, until two weeks ago.

Charles did not go trapping until some time in December- nearly the last- and after he got there he sent me a note he was giving the Lord the first fox he caught and trusted He would help him,which He did,as yesterday Charles told me he had been in the village a week on account of the cold weather,and when he came he had caught 43 foxes. He was hauling out coal for the camp today;but it is 15 degrees below zero with a very hard wind,so possibly he will wait for a better day.

Will you please urge Mr. Gould to send me the same kind of fuel oil he sent last year? The Government sent oil so thick that it wont burn in the school stoves and every few days the stoves have to be overhauled,taking one or two days to get them in working order again. Last year their oil was poor but this year it is simply awful. That is why I did not have the Week Day Bible Class several times; there could be no fire and it was too cold to have school.without heat.

I am hoping to hear from you in this next lot of mail. With best personal wishes I am

Sincerely yours,

Ann Bannan

Gambell, Alaska, January 20, 1939.

Mr. J.M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

Your letter of October 25th came today by plane. Mrs. Daugherty, who has been in Nome several weeks on account of illness returned.

I've heard a lot about that in-vestigation at Barrow last summer. The Daugherties left Barrow for a year's leave of absence the spring of 1937 and went to school. There has always been trouble at Barrow but a few of the people who were sent there to work for the natives and stand up for them have done that. It has been a mess up there. We expect to hear a lot more next spring.

I got your message today regarding Miss Komedal. I think she is a very excellent young woman and she has great faith, so I should think she would be a good one to send here.

Why doesn't she order her supplies that she wants? My last list that I sent in to you should be a guide for her to use and change as she wishes. I do not want to order anything for her and have her pay for what she uses. I cannot afford to do that and I would not expect anyone else to do that for me. I may not return; who knows what one will do?

I know I need a change and rest and I am glad she is willing to come here. When do you plan to have her come; I mean what month?

I had no notion of giving up the work here at Gambell when I suggested getting the house at Savoonga. My idea was to get a place to stay in while over there. I had thought I was expected to work in both villages. I've stayed with the nurse each time I went over, but felt when Mrs. Gallagher was there I ought not stay longer than two weeks. Last year Miss Leake and I exchanged homes and everything in them, so I could stay longer. I did this so I could work over there longer; two weeks is next to nothing, when we think of the other fifty weeks in a year.

The Savoonga natives leave the village late in the summer and go to their winter camps with the whole family, so that in winter very few families are left to winter in town. I thought it would be best to stay here in winter and go over there early in the spring before breakup for a month then in summer go over for two or three months.

It is almost 2 A.M. and I must get to sleep. The Pilot and his mechanic are staying here and will have to have an early breakfast.

Charles told me he set his first fox aside for the Lord and when he was in a week ago he had 43!

Sincerely yours,

Anna Bannan

We hope for another plane in April.

Gambell, Alaska, January 22, 1939

Mr. J. M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

The plane that came the 20th has had to stay over here another day and yesterday, after writing all Friday night, I discovered your letter of Nov. 15th which had hidden itself among the pile of magazines.

I have had no one in mind to take my place this furlough year and I know Miss Komedal and admire her very much and feel certain she will be the right one.

There is no use in sending the stove (range is what I had in mind) cot and mattress etc. until we have a place to use them in Savoonga. This house is furnished and comfortable.

I wrote to you Friday long towards morning and tried to clear up the situation here. I would not want to ever live in Savoonga for more than two months at a time, This is the largest village and the hunting is best here so there will always be a village here and, anyway, we have the mission house here.

The Government is sending (so we expect) a $22,00 building for Gambell. The other people here who are in the employ of the Government think this will probably attract other natives who have families to come here to live and the Savoonga school will be a one teacher place, instead of two. We have been told of three families from Savoonga who plan to move here this year. Therefore the mission should be here.

The teachers are plainly told by the O. of I.A. to attend to their school work and let the others take care of the religious work. These teachers are Adventists and it seems to me they are true to their faith. But they have no notion of working with us or dictating. Mr. Troutman used to always go over the Bible verses those natives chose to use for Sunday School or Prayer service, as the natives do not know the meaning of a great many words that are common to us, and they have to understand a verse before they can translate it to others. This is what I meant when I said Mr. Daugherty would help the natives while I was out of the village.

You know, of course, this Island has no organized church. There are several very good Christians at Savoonga but no elder on the Island. Personally, I think one man over there is way ahead spiritually of any one here. They need the help of someone who is interested in them and who wants them to understand the Bible and lay a firm foundation for their faith in Christ. At present, with a man teacher who is surely mentally unbalanced, his wife who also is a teacher and said she could believe nothing, and a Roman Catholic nurse who believes only in working her way to heaven, there seems to be no white person there to help the natives' spiritual growth.

I am very tired and I think my glasses should be changed, as my eyes are aching a lot more than they should. I had much rather stay on the job than take the furlough but feel it is necessary now.

I plann to get checked up physically first, then get some training in a Bible School; there are many things I want to learn in order to do better work after furlough.

Albert, the man I think is such a fine Christian in Savoonga, was here yesterday and we talked about the house I have mentioned to you as desirable for the worker's home in that village. He said he thot that would be fine and the men would be glad to move it nearer the school and fix it up but he said the house cost $700 when it was built, and that it would not be turned over for $100; it was worth more. He would take it up with the three people interested in it and let me know when I go over next month.

All I can do is to put things up to you as I see them and you are the one to decide what shall be done about them.

I had planned to write out four lessons to be given while I am at Savoonga afternoon service, so the interpreter would not have to ask any help on them. We have S.S. quarterlies which are sent in by two classes in Sterling, Colorado.

The plane is to leave soon so I'll close this with the following: This summer the commander of the Northland had to hold some meetings of investigation at Barrow and when he came back here he sent for Mr. Daugherty and asked him questions about the situtation there which Mr. Daugherty did not want to answer. The commander insisted and so of course Mr. Daugherty gave the information which he was in a position to give. This does not indicate to me that he is in disrepute with government. But I promise you I shall not turn anything over to him to attend to, even tho I have faith in him and his very fine wife.

Yours sincerely,

Ivan Bannon

Gambell,Alaska, May 9,1939.

Mr. J. M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

This afternoon we got word by radio that the plane will come again with mail; the third trip since last November by the same pilot. I understand this means that hereafter we will have one or two deliveries of mail by plane each winter. The message states: "Plane will come anytime between now and the fifteenth." Its indefinite but good news anyway. I am hoping for a letter from you.

February 11th I went to Savoonga for a month but when I got there it became so stormy the drivers had to stay several days before they could return with Miss Leake, and she asked me to stay until May,as she had not spent enough time in Gambell this year; so I stayed until April 26th. I was glad to have that length of time with those people, and I am certain if you could come here and look the island and work over, youwould agree with me.

I kept track of all the meetings and attendance there but somehow the tablet has been lost,so I can only tell you that I organized a Sunday School Class for the women with small children and they (the mothers) were the most grateful people imaginable. Their babies and other small children raise rim in the meetings and everyone who hasn't a noisy child glares at them until they leave the meeting. I suggested they leave all the little ones at home if it were possible, and several of them did that; those who brought children kept them still. Then most of those mothers did not come to the afternoon meetings,so we had a peaceful time all thru our Sunday services.

Over there the men have been taking charge of all the meetings and leaving the mid-week prayer service out when they were too busy hunting or doing other things. The leader, Albert Kulowie,came to me of his own free will and said never again would they neglect the Thursday pra-yer service. One Sunday I told the mothers and asked them if one of them would lead the meeting when the men were out of the village and several raised their hands.

They have a group of older women who have been having their weekly Prayer Circle for over a year,meeting each Monday around noon. I told them the Prayer Meeting was very important and Albert had said they would have it each week,but I knew some times the men would all be busy hunting,and asked them if they would call the meeting and lead it and they talked Eskimo quite a while,then one of the ~~xxxx~~ women said:"We have the translations Dr. Campbell made for us and we can recite those and pray. We will take care of those meetings when the men are away." Then I told the men what the women of both groups had promised and they seemed relieved, because they simply must hunt every good day they have. They said there was no reason why the women couldn't take charge of those meetings, but it is most unusual in Eskimo land. I just hope they will do as they agreed.

Mr. J. M. Somerndike, April 9,1939.

When I was in Savoonga the people who own the house I suggested the Board buy, came to me and said the price was $225.00, which we all think is very reasonable. It is 16 X 14 feet. I did not want to send an amateur message about this, as every teacher in Alaska has a radio and is on the air all the time school is not in session. If you turned me down I did not want the whole Territory to know it.

So far Miss Leake has not had a place warm enough in Gambell for her to live in during the cold weather, so she was glad to have my home and let me have hers. But as soon as the new school is built, she is to have the teacherage and shew ont want to use my quarters.

I sent an amateur message to Mr. Gould to tell Miss Komedal not to bringxxxxx sauerkraut, asparagus, beets and spinach but to bring a typewriter as I must take mine out for repairs.

It seems to me, if this Island is made a landingfield there should be a man and his wife here, as many things will come up to be attended to. The teachers have had notice that the regular route will be from Russia over the Diomedes and to Teller, but if the weather is bad there, they will try this island. This is a suggestion; there are still many IFS in the plan. Last summer a new ship came here and the plane from it went around the Island, taking pictures and this lake was considered an excellent landing field and a large lagoon between here and Savoonga is right.

I sent Mr. Youel an amateur message from Savoonga, but I did not have your letter with me, so asked him to get in touch with you. I told him how to come by boat, as the plane service is very high- $500 a trip to date. The poor D--aughertie s had to pay $1000 for her two trips.

I'll copy a bit from a letter Mrs. Daugherty wrote me while I was at Savoonga. We had a death here of a little child.

> "Jimmie asked me to conduct Ellen's funeral. I asked the choir to come to practice a song and Simon (Jimmie's nephew who lives at their winter camp about nine months of the year and knows little English) told the boys to bring the coffin- instead of the choir. Some mix up, but Jimmie said to have it in the church since they had the box there. We differ on the state of the dead so I was very careful. I used John 3:16- 1 Thess. 4:16,17- John 14:1-3 and Job 1:21-2
>
> "I just brought out that Jesus wonderfully changed the sting of death for us; we must accept God's plan as did Job; would not be long until Jesus comes then we would knowwhy; our part to live close to Him; sorrow often drew us closer. Then some of the people were talking about Jimmie losing so many children- judgments from the Lord etc. I cleared that up. The whole service lasted only 25 minutes- song and all."

I am sending three months' reports with this letter. I am sorry the Savoonga slips were lost.

Thank you for the splendid Christmas greeting which came in the last mail. I always like your messa-ges.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Bannan

P.S. May 10th. The films have been a great treat and everyone here and at Savoonga has enjoyed them. I did not get them in Savoonga until along in April, so I left them there for a while longer. Thank you again for having them sent to us. When shall we return them?

Judging from the comments on the film "Purple Mountain Majesties" I think we would like to see that; if it is convenient to let us have it for awhile. You know our mail is very irregular all the time.

We all feel that it is quite necessary for me to take my furlough this year. I would much prefer staying on the job but at present I seem to be "all shot to pieces."

The things I asked for in the October letter were intended for the little house at Savoonga, which is so small the cooking range would be all that is necessary to heat the place.

The teachers have been asked to have school in the summer and not in winter, so they informed me they would not need this building after the end of the present school year, May 31st. I began rejoicing as I thought I could again haul down all the food supplies upstairs and store it in the cupboards of the primary room. This noon Mrs. Daugherty told me they had decided they would have to use it in the fall for 2½ months before trapping. I was glad to be notified before I had made the changes. I've been planning to use the primary room for all sorts of meetings during the week, and put the many volumes in book cases there which are at present boxed and under the eaves.

The children have been determined, so it seemed to some of us, to see if they could wreck the mission building before the new school is built. Ever since I came back from Savoonga I have been on the war path because of all sorts of damage done about the place. They show they are not ready for a $20,000 school building yet and the Daugherties are wondering how they are going to protect the new building. We all say we have never found such a lawless condition in any other Eskimo village we have been in. We think it is because they have been so isolated for years; and they do not want to change their ways, nor do they want white people to teach them much. The older people are fine but they never teach their children while they are young; each child does exactly as he pleases.

I've neglected to mention that during my absence the natives carried on the meetings themselves. The girl who teaches the primary Sunday School department, Ora Irrigoo, took charge of the World Day of Prayer meeting, and had others give prayers and certain parts. The others wrote me of the splendid service. Easter after noon the old choir gave a concert and for this they had to ask Mrs. Daugherty to give them the note to start on, as they did not have the organ.

Some of the Savoonga natives came over here while I was there and they told me the meetings were splendid; every one quiet and listening etc.etc.

Gambell,Alaska, May 18,1939.

Miss Helen E. Wolf,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Wolf:

I have just recieved the news of the passing of Mr. Somerndike and I am very sorry. I have been hoping to meet him and get acquainted and try to clear up some things,which my letters have been unable to do.

In his letter of February 24th he asks me to let him know the amount of money I shall need for travelingexpense. The fare by boat from here to Seattle is around $130. I always have to go to Palo Alto to report to my church and then over to Green Bay,Wis. I have no idea what the fare will be; rates have changed. Possibly, if you call up the railway station you could get an idea of the amount I shall need. I'm sorry I am so indefinite. Last summer the steamship company changed their rates from Nome to Seattle; raising the price.

Yours truly,

Ann Bannan

P.S. The bill which Mr. Somerndike returned to me asking me to check them hereafter, I passed on to the teacher who attends to the store bookkeeping. The manager of the store cannot find a notation of any recent payment by the Board on the mission account. You will hear from the teacher, Mr. Frank Daugherty, in the June mail. He wanted to wait for the next bank statement to see if there has been some payment by the Board which had not been reported. He had failed to receive the August bank statement.

Dr. McAfee sent this to me.
E B K

Gambell, Alaska, June 15, 1939.

Rev. Cleland B. McAfee, D.D.
173 Macon Avenue,
Asheville, N.C.

Dear Doctor McAfee:

Your letter of March 16th came to me May 17th when a plane from Nome brought us mail. I had no time then to reply.

Our primary teacher, Mrs. Daugherty, had appendicitis and was taken to Nome in November, returned to us in Jnuary by plane, so we have been blessed with mail this winter and are thankful for it.

In the November mail I had a letter from a friend in Sterling, Illinois, with a program used by the church there for the service on October 1st. She said "I wonder if you know anything about this October meeting of our Church." Of course I did not and have been wondering what sort of a meeting is was.

Then your letter came telling me more about it. We are not organized on this Island in either village. I have been hoping the Board would send some one here to organize the church here and at Savoonga. There would be around 300 to baptize and each church would have around 100 members, I think.

When I was at Wales I wrote to some one at the Board / rooms asking if I might serve Communion and baptize the children. We have to teach both to the natives. There had been several other letters sent the Board on the same subject and they were taken to General Assembly and turned down. I was sent a report of that meeting and remember Mr. Matthews, of Seattle, said they did not want women in the pulpit. Well, that was not what I wanted either.

The reason I asked about Communion service and baptism, was the Lutheran missionary in that section, Sister Anna Huseth was told, when she left the States, she was permitted to baptise etc. because she would be in such an isolated district there would be no chance to have that done unless she did it. She visited Wales once before I went there and the natives wee delighted to have her help.

Two of the Lutheran ministers who lived at Shishmaref - 80 miles north of Wales, and Mr. Olson, of Teller, 60 miles down coast from Wales, helped me several times during my five years at Wales.

If you will send in the information to Miss Evelyn Komedal, who is to relieve me this year of furlough, I am certain she will do as you wish or suggest. She is a very splendid sort of person.

I have been wishing the Board would send a minister and his wife here. There are nearly 500 inhabitants on the Island and the majority claim to be Christians. The Eskimos prefer to be led by men, altho they have been splendid about helping me and following me. Women in Eskimo land are still slaves and their seats are way back.

The mission house here is old and it has taken a lot of hard work to get it comfortable and more convenient. The natives

as you probably know, did the work as a contribution to the Board. Now we are all quite pleased with the result of the labor.

I wish some one from the Board would come here and look the place over. I have suggested that the Board buy a small cottage at Savonga and let me fix it up for the worker when over in that village. To date, when I have been there, I have had to stay with the nurse, who has very attractive quarters in the school building. The building would cost $250 and the men would move it and we would have to add a storm shed to it and insulation and chimeny. I presume nothing will be done about it, since Mr. Somerndike has passed on, until some one else takes up his work.

We are hoping a boat that has been at Nome (first boat of the season) will call here with out mail and take what we have ready today. There is lots of ice in Bering Sea and this ship had quite a time getting up from Unalaska to Nome.

The other day a James, the oldest Christian on the Island was in visiting and he said "I am so glad the Board will send some one to take your place, because when Dr. Campbell left here we had about as many Christians as now, but after he left the folks got careless and went back to their old way of worship."

To day I have the funeral service of the oldest woman on the Island; we have no idea how old she is. For some time she has been spending Sunday with me whenever it was possible for her to get down here and about a year ago, when she was in better health she used to walk in two or three times a week to spend the day. One day she told the official interpreter she wanted him to come to my house and tell me a dream she had about me. Later both met here and this is what I was told: Owhowin (O-whow-in) dreamed that I asked her to come here because I had some friends I wanted her to be a witness for Christ. She came but before she got in she saw so many strange people she was bashful and did not want to come in and talk to them, but she said I urged her to come so she did as I wanted her to do. She said "That Woman" has many helpers- very many. Now I know it is the Truth she is telling us, so that is why I come to church every time I can get here." I told the interpreter I believed I had many helpers; I believed all who pray for me and the work here are helpers. When he repeated that to her she said "Well, if she saw what I saw she would know she had many helpers!" I am glad to have her safe with Christ now and that I may have the reading of her funeral service. She suffered with a bad heart and was very deaf but always cheerful and we used to have goodtimes talking to each other in our own language which we somehow made each other understand.

Thank you for your letter and your prayers and thought of us off here. If you and Mrs. McAfee were here right now you would see piles of papers and "what not" on every chair in the living room, the waste paper container in the middle of the floor to catch all I discard from the piles and a water pail I painted yesterday and hung on a hook in the middle of the ceiling of living room. I've been painting the kitchen and front hall during the days and clearing out the desk and clipboards in the evenings. I want everything spick and span when I leave.

With every good wish to you both, I am

Sincerely - Alice Brennan

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
1419 Harmon Place,

February 3,1940.

Mr. Everett B. King,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. King:

In October or November I sent a check from the Barabbo bank in Wisconsin for $32.00,the balance left from the $150 sent for my passage from Gambell,Alaska,to Seattle. Has it been received?

I am auditing classes at the Northwestern Bible and Missionary Training School here; began with the new semester January 29th. I have never had Bible training and I am thotoughly enjoying this privilege,which I need.

I wonder if the letter I wrote last spring, after Mr. Somerndike passed on,has been brought to you attention. It was about buying a little house at Savoonga, 14 by 16 feet,so when the worker is in that village she may have her own place in which to live. I have written quite fully on the subject and in the early summer was advised to let the matter rest until later,when I might be in New York.

Miss Komedal wrote she would like to spend some time in Savoonga and wondered if she might live in the cottage but it needs a chimney and has no furnishings. She had been invited to stay with the teachers who are crowded for room. I've always stayed with the nurse when in that village,and it is not always convenient for her to take an extra one in.

I have a friend,Mrs. Amy Groenfeldt,who is the widow of a Moravian minister. She has two sons,James,who is thirtysix years old andJohn, who is a graduate of the Moravian College in Pennsylvania,and a very splendid young man.

James,the older one, also graduated from a Moravia college and then went to Lawrence College,Appleton,Wisconsin, where he learned to drink. He quit college and took a cure then later he had to go back and take the cure over again. He has a splendid disposition and is well liked by his friends. He is now on parole and has a job with some Dairy Farm near Sturgeon Bay,Wisconsin,where he probably will work this winter.

Mrs. Groenfeldt is blind and has enough money to pay her board and room in Sturgeon Bay,but she cannot make a home for James. I visited her one afternoon shortly before James was to return and she,naturally,was worried because she could not take him in with her,and she feared he might not be able to keep straight without home influence.

During our visit something was said about negroes and Mrs. Groenfeldt said "I wish James could work among them; he has always wanted toget into work that would be with them." I asked her why she didn't get her minister to try to place him in that work and she replied the Moravians did not have such work and she did not know how to go about it.

I told her that our Presbyterian Board did have work among negroes and that I would write and ask if James might be placed somewhere under our Board. She said he is wonderful with animals and he'd like farming; he'd like anything he can get that brings him in contact with the negroes.

I,of course,promised her nothing except that I would write to you and ask you to communicate with her. Her address is 524 Garland Street, ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.

I hope you wont think I have lined up too much trouble to burden you with. In the history of the Groenfeldt family, as I understand it,James is the only one who has been a drunkard all the others have been fine up-standing Christian men,and several were ministers. His mother believes if James can get into work he likes and kept busy,he will make good. He is well educated and not lazy.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Bauman

Received 2/18/40.

(The next plane to the Island is due near the end of March or first of April as near as O C knows. This last plane nosed over and damaged its propeller necessitating another plane ~~the~~ to arrive the following day, so the folks had quite a weekend! Received letter from Hinckleys yesterday in which they give their address as 1209 Broadway San Antonio Texas. This concerns former Bunkers.)

This man is an amateur radio operator there whom you may send messages free by to the 2d. if you wish.

H. J. Ripka
370 Columbia St.
Astoria, Oregon.

Ann B—

1308 Harmon Place
Minneapolis, Minn.
Feb. 19, 1940.

Dear Mr. Ewing.

Your letter of the 8th came in due time and I was so glad to get it, I am writing again before you start for Alaska!

I am here attending the Northwestern Bible School and had planned to stay six weeks. When I arrived (Jan. 26) I had a severe cold and it turned to flu and now bronchitis has moved in and taken possession so I'm in bed—and better.

In re James Crawford: Would you please mail my letter to you to Rev. McCoy and ask him to write to me? as to his decision? Then I can pass it on to James and his mother. I know this check record does not sound good but we feel we must do all we can to help him and interested in work he wants to do. and he is a very capable young man.

I want to tell you that this winter we seem to be having plane deliveries of mail from home to Gambell. I had a radio message from there this morning and will send you the note the operator sent regarding last weeks affairs.

Last year in Nov. Mrs. Daugherty, one of the Govt. teachers at Gambell, had a ruptured appendix and had to be taken to Nome by plane. In Jan. she returned. The bill for the round trip was $1,000. Then in May the pilot came over again with mail and had raised his price to $525.00 a trip. He said he would not land at Savonga as there is no good landing field in that vicinity.

This last plane that ~~I~~ raced down there was over trying to find a landing "probably will settle it for good and all. In summer the ground there is well dotted and ~~is~~ is dry boggy with large volcanic rocks and in winter the snow is not level or safe enough for landing.

If you could go to Alaska in June you could make the trip from Nome to Teller for $3.00 a day on a Govt. Cutter and get to both villages easily.

I am hoping to go back next August but I told the natives if they had rather have Miss Rommedal stay, to notify the Board. I would like to have her stay at Teroonga all the time and let me stay in Tombell or we could exchange places every few months.

Every one on the Id. will be glad to welcome some one from the Board. And we all want the church in each village organized, and Communion served etc. Baptisms to be made. On Wales I had the five Lutheran ministers who helped me out. Once the Nome minister happened in and baptized several children and served Communion after Easter.

On the Island nothing has been done except giving the word of God.

Last fall while in San Francisco I met Rev. R. S. Nickerson, 2440 Dasmuth St., Oakland. He and his wife were the missionary-teachers at Sumbell in 1923-24. He wasn't well much of the time they were there. Asked him why he didn't organize the Churches. He said he would like to go back there now and do that. He would go up and stay during the summer and get both of Churches (Saravonga and Sumbell) in running order if the Bd. would pay his fare - no salary, as he said he could donate his time and work. He asked me to bring this up. I had not forgotten but felt I'd wait until I met you. I suggest, if you are near Oakland, get in touch with him, in case you can not stay on the Island long enough to

do this yourself.

I certainly hope I may have a chance to talk with you while I am out this furlough.

I come out so tired my voice has been natural just about a week. The few doctors I've contacted here said I was in no condition to go about the country talking.

In January I decided to come here and not notify my friends I had arrived until I got in good condition. Of course I could not pay board and room rent unless I got more than a rest out of it. So I registered at the Bible school, which is three blocks from the Victoria Hotel where I room and 1½ from the dormitory where I get two meals a day. I was auditing classes all forenoon until last Thursday when I decided to wait for better health. I'm much better but the weather is so damp and moist I keep catching cold on top of all I've had so am staying in my room and the friends of the

dormitory are doing all sorts of "nice things" for me.

When you get to Juneau please get in touch with Mr. Cloud M. Hirst, Supt. of Education, Bureau of Indian Affairs, who has been interested in our work on the Id. He is a Presbyterian too. He told the Sarvonga Teacher to let us have the ~~the~~ upper room of the school house for our church services. So far we've used this only when it was warm in spring until fall and in winter, when so many of the families have moved to winter camps for trapping, we have had the use of the primary room and have not had to furnish heat. Mrs. Connelly has played the organ.

This is a mess but I shall trust you'll be able to make out what I have in mind.

With best wishes and hoping this trip will be helpful to all concerned, I am

Sincerely yours -
Ann Bannon.

P.S. I plan to leave here Mch. 16th for Green Bay, Wis. 721 Emily St. will be the address.

Miss Ann Bannan
721 Emilie Street,
Green Bay, Wis.

Gambell, St. Lawrence Island Alaska
April 13, 1940

Dear Bannan I am very glad when I received your letter, I was wonder of you where you was since you leave us, and I didn't know when school children ~~was~~ wrote you some letters . My children ~~they~~ didn't tell me about they had been wrote you, am glad you were happy ~~for~~ theirs notes to you, and you must have been lots of learned what we have been doing here since you was gone. ~~from here.~~

I told Winford and Clara about your happiness of theirs what ever they had wrote to you, and am glad also you were going to show the children's letters to those people whoever had been asked ~~about us some~~ questions about us which ~~we~~ are ~~being~~ Eskimos. I hoped you will ~~to~~ show ~~of~~ this also ~~of~~ my letter just ~~like~~ the same as the school children's letters, Please tell the people who had been asking about us ~~tell them~~ we have mind, but may be only weaker mind because we are not been trained many things as the white people, ~~but~~, but we can do best (all) we can do just like any other people; if we know how to do things, we do the best ~~If~~ we knew how, ~~but~~ We are trusting in the merciful ~~our~~ Lord which (Him) knows everthing, and so we put everthing to Him, for Him only wiser then all on earth, tell those people who questioning about us, I am full Eskimo who is writing this letter I do my best English, and tell people we are praying for them, I wished them also pray for us too. I am sure they will as we need their prayers toward us all around on this Island; please to remember us always in their prayers, may we be on the Lord's side forever. I am thankful only One True God He let me do know a little about how to read and write . need our prayers

Miss Bannan I am very glad you are going to ask the Board for the wall board for the our Church and I hoped they will let you to have them as it needs to be warmer ~~with be of~~ in the Church , and so I had measured both rooms-big and small ~~rooms~~ as you asked ~~of~~ me to do for the sizes and heights of the walls. Yes 8 feet length will be right of the board only 1 in. is different wall is 7 ft. 11 inches height , sorry your two messages are not show to us; surly I'll help you out in this time.

Sorry you was been sick for 8 days in bed, I hoped was not bad sickness, I hope you are now ~~in~~ well and learning more in your schoolings, as you say ~~in~~ that's a fine place for the Bible study, and you must have ~~been~~ had good times with ~~those~~ so many people. Your learning ~~like~~ for us all here; we will looking for you coming. And your wishes are very interesting for here to see you with so many of you togather there singing and praying. Please remember us in your prayers. Oh how ~~will be~~ it would be nice, if we could hear ~~of~~ those singing in ~~that~~ that morning service of those 4 people. ~~sung~~ .

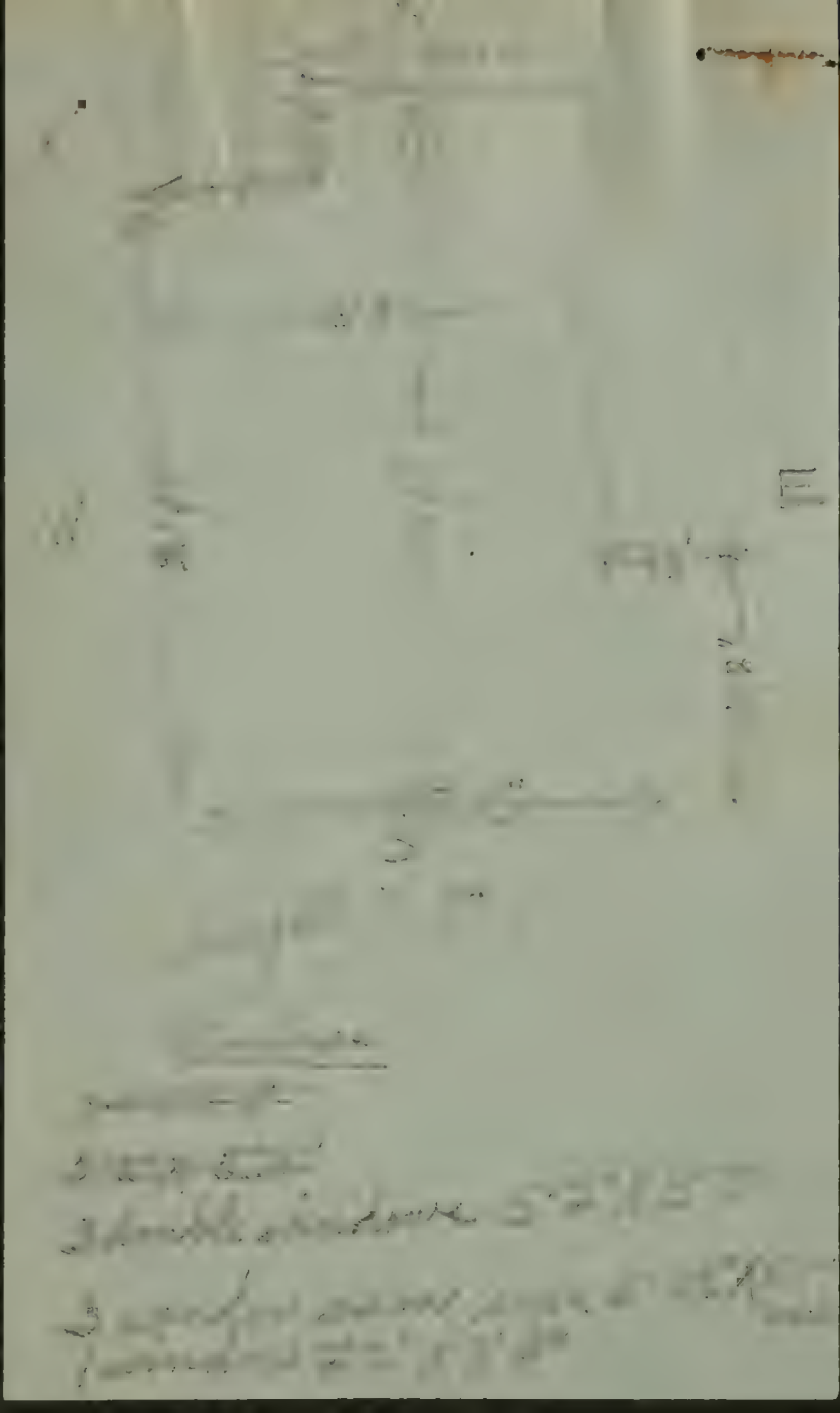
About the paper knives made from old seal harpoon heads to be for handle and puts blad into it, sorry I have none on hand real good ones without broken may I will find from some body eles . I am glad you sent me a envelope it is ready thanks for it for I am short on stamps, I send you two roughly drawings to show the sizes, heights the both rooms I hope will be plain enough to you.

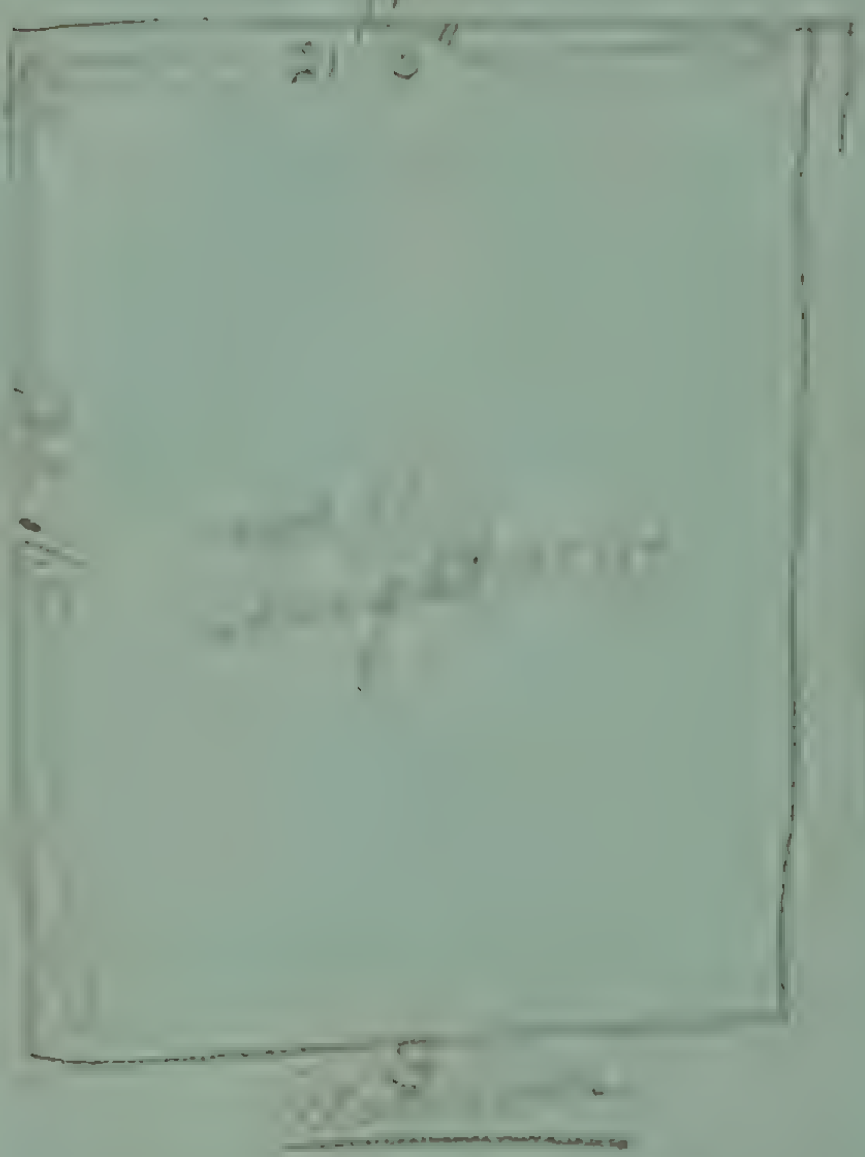
I am glad have here big space for tell more somthing eles to you, this is ~~aday~~ April 23th We have blessing in this month Moses Soonugrok caught his whale on 6th; Adam Yoghok 8th; Calvin Euch 19th; Henry Niyukrhok 22th; these four whales we had been caught in those days Moses whale is young one all these three are grown ones but Henry's we cut out just skin no whale bone that whale was in the ice that whale was biger then all rest; perhaps whale bone maybe 11 feet or little over. May be we will get yet another whale if weather is good, and so you better come sooner; eat some mungtuk with us, for you have been long enough with Eskimos, should eat mungtuk too. I am sorry Miss Komdal been sick she said she being sick in 6 weeks today I hoped she will get well when she go to Nome when plane get to here any time now whenever weather is clear. And trapping is good whaleing is good praise The Lord.

Yours sincerly,
James Aningayou

James has his own typewriter and likes to do neat work. A.B.

No Boat—
Park Only




N
W
E
S

72 Emiles St. Green Bay, Wis.
June 27, 1940.

Dr. E. B. Krieg,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, City.

Dear Doctor Krieg:

This is a note to report I am an obedient sort of person and I'm taking Hazol for anemia, and B.1 + B2 tums a day with Abdol once a day for general build up. I'm eating and doing all the other things suggested to do. I've gained 9¼# since May 6 when I was weighed before in New York. Today I was dressed the same, so you may know I've been obedient.

A few days ago I had a letter from Miss Comeau, whose address is R.F.D. 5 Winslow, Wash. She said her physician, after a careful examination, sent her to a specialist who said she had colitis, which can be helped by rest and diet. She was feeling better.

The glass for the roof windows I am missing today on the Island measures thus: 30¾ + by 22 inches. I wanted the heavier price I glass instead of a window that too many small panes to try to keep puttied.

I asked one of the native men at Gambell to send size of the two church rooms so we'd know what amount of ply wood they'd need and I enclose the slips to be prepared. Sears and Roebuck sell ply wood and it will help cut the fuel bills next year if the Board deals

P.S. Miss L. wrote the address is Lambert's Lodge, Lambert's Bay, Cape Province, South Africa. The first one was sent in May. She wrote (second) sent to Gambell in 1936 or 37. The first one was lost in the mails. Sandel sailed for it by Bal. may not have received a letter from me since.

able to send it.

I am sending you James' letter. I tried to make enough corrections in it so you'd get the sense of it. He is the oldest spiritually in the 2d. I thought maybe parts of it might be used for publicity or what ever you desire.

When I went over in 1934 about as soon as he called on me he asked me to please speak English to them. I told him that was the only language I did talk. Then he said - "Well, please don't say "Savy?" to us: we don't talk that way." He has helped me a lot in many ways.

In about two weeks I'll have my blood checked and report and I hope you will all decide to let me return in August instead of Sept. as it takes 9 or 10 days going direct to Nome from Seattle, then a wait of from 7 to 17 days at Nome for a Government cutter to take me to the 2d. On the way out I waited 19 days at Nome for a commercial ship. In 1934 it took 9 days to get to Nome and the surf was so bad we had to wait 2 days on the ship before we could be taken ashore. Sept. is the month of storms.

Mr. Gould can be notified to meet me in Nome whenever I get there. I'd like to go up on the N. Star which goes (direct) to the 2d., and if you send the celloglass & ply wood, please have them shipped on N. Star as that sends handling for it to Nome, which is a pension.

Mr. Gould should be making reservation for me even if it should have to be cancelled later - which I doubt as the tourists will fill the Denali in August.

But write to you, Mrs. King and her mother. I often think of that pleasant trip with you three and B—

721 Emlie St.
Green Bay. Wis.
July 8, 1940.

Dear Doctor King:

It is very pleasant to me at last to announce I have gained 11# since May 6th and my hemoglobin, which was 12.2, is now 14.2. I had my test Sat. a. m. and hustled off the report to Dr. Vaughan, who ought to have it today.

I have found a chair company here and will look at the chairs as soon as I can find time. One which the agent (one Zion Church member) said was good for my purpose was $1.72 nett cost, delivered it would be $1.73 and freight per chair 51¢. to Seattle I may be able to get them delivered

U.S.C.S.
on a Cutter from Seattle to
the 2d., but not certain yet.
I have been asked by Mr. Yarnell
when I expect to be at home
on St. Laurence 2d. as he
may plan on getting over
there. I suggested he go from
Nome to the 2d. with me. and
stay as long as he can.

We have lots of odd jobs
lined up to be done about
then. He should stay long enough
to get acquainted.

Sept. isn't a good month, as
a rule, for boat trips from
one village to the other. August
is better, and there usually is
a larger number of Siberian
natives in their village then. They
go to their winter camps before Sept.

With best wishes to you
and yours. Ian

Sincerely yours -
Ann Bannan

/

Mr. 5916 2 P.M.

721 Emilie St.
Green Bay, Wis.
7/9/40

Dear Doctor King:

After mailing you a letter yesterday, I received yours of the 5th. You may have received that one before you'll get this but, just to show you how obedient and nice I can be, I am sending another note.

The hemoglobin was 12.2 and last Saturday was 14.2 and my weight, June 6th, was 130 pounds and lately (last two weeks) has been 141 pounds. My average weight for some years has been 144th.

I'm feeling very well

and quite like a human being again, for which I am very thankful. It's a lot more fun to be all well than two-thirds dead, say I.

The North Star usually makes two trips to the Island and other stations up that way. Mrs. ~~Daugherty~~ Caswell of Saranac told me recently the N.S. was to be over there around July 20th. If you have time while in Seattle and care to talk with Mrs. Daugherty our Gonbell Province teacher, her address is 3625 - 44th Ave. S.W. Seattle. She is out for her health. I do not know yet when she plans to go back, but I think not until later, soon after I get there

Please tell Mr. Gould: I'll be

over to borrow money: its cost thus.

With every good wish for you and yours, I am

Sincerely yours-

Ann Bannan

Nome, Alaska
Oct. 29, 1940.

Dear Miss Babcock:

We got mail the 17th of this month and I received the literature which you sent to me. Thank you for it. I've been as busy as a cat on a tin roof ever since I got home and have not had a chance yet to look at the literature but as soon as this next mail which will be this week and we talking when it

will arrive or have here - it out of our village I may have time to read a bit.

The nurse is here and has told me if I'll start next week doing up the Christmas gifts for the natives, she'll help me. Its a big job, so I'll try to get her help - and then not read except on Sat.

My trunks are back here, also the cocoons. The ship that took them - N. Star - came the 19th and could not discharge cargo until the 29th on account of rough weather.

We are all very happy to have our people baptized and two churches organized on the Lauracca Id. Mr. Gault was here two weeks. The natives refer to him as "Miss Bannon's husband!" I just heard this a few days ago. They can all repeat his name and they know he has a sister and wife and why they refer to him thus is beyond me.

Thanking you again for your kindness, I am sincerely yours - Ann Bannon

BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

Gambell, Alaska
November, 1940

My dear Friends:

I left Seattle August 17 and got here about 1 a.m. the 29th and this trip was the finest I have had as I came to Alaska. Other times I travelled on the Victoria and went from Seattle to Nome with one stop at Akutan, a very highly scented whaling station; and saw very little except the bounding Pacific.

In Seattle I met Mr. and Mrs. Klerekoper, Barrow missionaries, for the first time. They had been out on furlough too and were there waiting to sail the 17th. Mrs. Greist was also in the city, and one day a tea was given for us and Miss Komedal happened to be visiting me that day so we five went and had a splendid time. I had not seen Mrs. Greist since July, 1929 and we had three days' visit, so I think everything was at least mentioned.

On the Columbia the Klerekopers and I had staterooms adjoining and I enjoyed them very much. We had time to get acquainted and I had many questions to ask concerning the people I knew up in their section of the territory. Some friends I had known at Nome and Kotzebue were on board the ship, which made it pleasanter too.

When the ship anchored we would get off and hunt up the missionaries and friends we knew, so I met every so many of our Presbyterian workers whom I had not met before, and of course that was a pleasure. The first stop was made at Metlakatla and the Hemsings who taught my five years at Wales are now there and they were surprised to see me at their door. We had tea with Rev. and Mrs. Swogger in their very attractive new home. Mrs. Swogger had been at Ketchikan for the day and came home just before we had to leave. The church there is very nice too and the scenery is fine. That evening we got to Ketchikan and were met by friends whom I had seen in New York and I was glad to be in their very pleasant home in Alaska. They took us for a ride and a call on the missionaries who had been there for the summer and were expecting to go back to college in a short time. At Juneau, Rev. and Mrs. Glasse and Walter Soboleff met us at the dock and then came aboard the ship and visited with us.

The southeastern trip is very lovely and this time I saw some of it which we must have passed in the night a year ago. We got to Seward the morning of the 23rd and were on the train around 8 o'clock and about one we were met at Anchorage by Rev. Cubbage and friends who hustled us into autos and took us to the manse where we had a splendid luncheon and visit. We had just about an hour there so it was packed full. Some members of their missionary society were at the manse and train and I was glad to meet them. I had spent two days in Anchorage in 1934 but I saw not one thing that looked familiar to me this time.

The trip on the train was pleasant and of course the scenery was beautiful but different than we had been seeing. That afternoon Rev. and Mrs. Armstrong who now have the Fairbanks church work, got on the train at Palmer with a group of young people who had been attending a conference at King Lake. We had a chance to get acquainted with them before we were guests in their home. Then at Eklutna where there is a fine Industrial school for the natives, I have about three minutes with Mrs. Smith, who taught here my first two years. The family has been at Eklutna a year. It was good to see her and I wished the rest of the family had been at the station. I also met Mr. and Mrs. Bingle there. We heard so much about each other, when we actually meet, we seem like old friends.

As the train does not carry a diner or pullman cars, we had to get off for meals and to sleep, so the first night we spent at Curry, a comfortable hotel where we had a splendid dinner and breakfast and room. I had wanted to see Mt. McKinley but did not get one glimpse of it. We got to Fairbanks between five and six that afternoon and Mr. Youel met us and invited us all to his home for dinner. Mr.

Youel had been the pastor there ten years and is retired now. They had invited Mr. Geist, an archeologist, whom I met here, to have dinner with us and the evening was too short; there was so much we all wanted to know and to talk over but had to leave much for some other time. When we got to the manse Mrs. Klerekoper offered to do my errand and I took a hot bath and gladly went to bed while they visited the Fair. The thing that surprised me at Fairbanks was the thick dust everywhere.

We were all in church the next morning and Mr. Klerekoper gave the sermon, which I enjoyed. I wish we had as nice a church here as that one is. Mr. Youel and the Klerekopers left by plane in the afternoon for Nome, hoping to get the Itaska or North Star to take them to Barrow. They could not locate either ship by radio. The next afternoon I left for Nome on a P.A.A. plane and the day was perfect. There had been frost and the leaves of shrubs had been touched a bit and were beautiful with the pine and cedar trees. We were up high and as I looked down it all looked as though it had been landscaped.

We got to Ruby and stopped to take on gasoline and there was the Wein plane and the friends we had thought were either in Nome or Kotzebue. Something had happened to their plane, so they had to wait for a mechanic to come from Nome and make the repairs. Mr. Youel went back to Nome with that plane and the others went to Kotzebue, where they were taken on the U.S.C.G. Itaska to Barrow. I got to Nome about 5:30 and that evening went calling and expected to be there a few days but the next morning there was the U.S.C.G.C. Aurora and I got a message to be ready to go aboard at ten o'clock. Then I did scramble and Mr. Youel hustled around too. Knowing I'd have to fly part way, my trunks and other baggage went to Nome by freight, and the ship had not arrived with them.

The Aurora is a small boat and the sea got rough and the reputation I have had since 1923 of being a good sailor, left me long before we got here. But for all that I enjoyed the trip and the people I met on board.

Mr. Youel came here to baptize the natives who wished it and to organize a church in each village. Most of the men of the village were on the beach to meet us and they had been told Mr. Youel was coming but when the natives saw him they got quite excited and asked me at once who that man was! I wonder if they thought I had picked up a husband during my furough.

While I was very glad to have my full year outside and to be with my family and friends, and enjoy the beauty of Wisconsin and the other states, it was good also to be back home again. I found some changes, naturally. Isabel, a native woman I had liked very much, had passed on and her husband was in Nome "hunting a wife." The native store had bought and installed an electric light plant and each house in the village now has electric lights and they are a great blessing to the women who have had to sew by the seal oil lamps for years.

The schoolhouse, which was built after I le ft here a year ago, is nice, comfortable and convenient and must be a delight to the teachers who have been so crowded in the two rooms of this mission building. Now each week the native children have baths there (showers) and their parents are welcome to use the showers when they wish, which is another blessing. This year there is an assistant teacher, Miss Margaret Panigioo, the Eskimo girl from Barrow whom Miss Dakin took out to Sheldon Jackson School in 1927 when I had my first furlough. She graduated from that school, then went back to Barrow for 2 years, and then went to a teachers' training college in Washington state, and graduated. It is pleasant to have her here and she says she likes everything so far. She told me the other day that she used to hang around the hospital at Barrow every chance she got, and how delighted she was when Dr. Newha ll began to have classes for the younger children to learn to sing by note. Now she is teaching these little tads to do the same.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dougherty and a seven year old son, Neil, are the teachers here; this is their third year. Miss Leake, the Government nurse, has a small cottage here and better quarters in the school building at Savoonga. She plans to spend two months at a time in each village, going back and forth in winter by dog team and by native boat in summer. She left here about a week ago and will return in January - weather permitting. We all enjoy Miss Leake very much and she is an excellent nurse.

At Savoonga for the past 3 years Mr. and Mrs. O.C. Connelly have been the teachers; they have a son eight or nine years old. They are spending the winter in the states and left here the 30 of October. Mr. and Mrs. Cameron arrived the same day and are now teaching and, judging from what we hear, they seem to be happy and doing well. They taught at King Island last year but wanted a transfer.

I expect to go to Savoonga and work there three months this spring if I can fine a place to stay so long. We are hoping to have a building there that belongs to the Presbyterian Board next year. The ground settles and heaves there, so that one is always watching his chimney to see that it has no cracks; and there is always danger of fire over there which we do not have here as we have different sort of ground. Savoonga is about 50 miles from here in summer and a longer distance in winter because the trail leads over several mountains some distance back from the shore line.

There are three white people in Savoonga and four here and all the others are Eskimos. As they have hard Eskimo names which we find difficulty in pronouncing for years they have been given an English name when born and we use that as a rule, while their native friends seldom use the English name.

The natives are very observing, and when we first come to one of their villages they size us up and then give us an Eskimo name, by which they call us when speaking of us in their own home or elsewhere, and of course we do not know our name and are blissfully unconcerned when they sit, watching us and talking about us. Personally, I rather like this custom of theirs and I think they always do their talking about us while we are looking on and seldom do they backbite.

At Wainwright one day two little girls came to visit me. One said "Ah-vah-yuk" and gave me a sly little glance then smiled at her companion. I know this custom of the natives naming us so when I got a chance I asked a white man there what my Eskimo name was. He smiled and asked me if I had ever seen a bird called the crane; of course I had. He said those birds were up that waytoo. "The natives had noticed that you are taller than they and that you take a longer step than they when you walk, so they call you "Ah-vah-yuk" which means the long-legged bird."

One of the old men here has been very ill and we do not expect him to get well. Miss Leake told me how serious his case was, so I went to see him. The family and I prayed for him and before I left the home I asked him if he was prepared to pass on in case his call came. He said "I am ready; I'm a Christian and there is nothing to fear." Then his son said "Now we all feel so differently about death; we are not afraid; we know we are safe. Before we were converted we used to be frightened when anyone was sick and we kept moving all the time, not knowing what to do. We are thankful to be at peace and for the Hope we have in Christ."

I am very well and am taking care of myself but the days are too short to accomplish all that comes my way to be done. We are to have plane mail this winter and are still waiting for the plane which was scheduled to come the 1st of the month. I am hoping this will get to you next month and I am wishing for you all a very beautiful Christmas tide, good health and every other blessing which only our Father can give you.

As ever,

ANN BAIRNAN

Vene Gambell and his wife were the first missionaries to the island and after their first furlough they and their small daughter were drowned on the way back. The church to which Mrs. Gambell belonged sent us a lectern and two chairs as a memorial for her for this church. His sister, Mrs. J.B. Butler, of York, Nebraska, sent a brass plate with his name for the lectern. It is all very nice and we are happy to have this gift and now the poor, shabby room we use for our services seems much more attractive. We are expecting to cover the walls of the two rooms we use for services with plywood next summer and have seats of some sort in the large room. A wisconsin friend sent a large Bible, which we have long wanted and are glad to have.

The room used by the Government for years for primary children I have converted into a living room and after the holidays I plan to have a weekly meeting for the women of the village and beginners' Sunday school class of 35 is held in the room beside other group meetings. It is much larger than the living room in my quarters. At present it is being used as one of Santa Claus' shops and Margaret Panigico is helping me do up the gifts for the natives which come in the mission boxes.

Miss Komddal was not well in the early spring, and went to Nome in May to see the doctor; he advised her to go to Seattle, so she did. Her home address is R.F.D. Winslow, Washington and it is near Seattle. I met her twice in Seattle and she is much better than she was. There is a group of young people here whom she helped very much and they are just splendid, especia lly the girls. Their bright, happy faces are a joy to me every time I see them. They are full of enthusiasm. Yesterday Sarah, a girl who had never asserted herself in the slightest way, led the young people's meeting. She can't read much but she had planned her meeting carefully and she took charge of it but when it came time for the Scripture reading, she called on Estelle to read it. The prayers and everything else about the meeting she attended to with a great deal of assurance and dignity. I was very proud of her and thankful she has been truly converted; because she surely is a "new person in Christ."

Teller, Alaska.
Dec. 9, 1940

Dear Miss Bannon:- Was very glad to get your letter of Sept. 17, postmarked Oct. 18 and arriving here just a few days ago. I am glad to hear that you are back to work and feeling fine. I am surely glad that you have been able to organize congregations out on the Solard, and are planning to build a church. I heard that Father Cunningham from Pilgrim Springs was planning to go over there last summer and start work but he did not get anyone to take his place. I think they should stay away when they know there is another denomination working. The same thing is happening out on the Diomede - and there are not a large number of people on the Diomede. I am surely glad that work is being done out on St. Lawrence. We talked of going out there at one time, before you went out, as we felt that there should be some one there. May the Lord Bless your efforts there. Yes, it is fun to reap a bit, where you have been sowing. I have been quite discouraged

(over)

here lately. When coming back this last time, drinking had gotten quite ahold and seems to be getting worse. And you know what that evil does. It leads from one thing to another. Some of the boys get started at the Mining Camps, at Teller during the summer, etc. and it just seems impossible to stop it. I am sure you do not have that evil to contend with out there.

We are now making plans for Christmas again. The Albee's were coming here, as teachers but for some reason, did not get here. Mrs. Bawles from Nome came to take the school for this year. We are sort of working a program together. Have wrapped my Christmas presents for the natives. Received so many Mission boxes this year, much more than usual, so all are getting fine gifts this year I think. Wish we had a nice Christmas tree. I still have a Sears-Roebuck Christmas tree that I got about 8 years ago and has been used every year since.

Do you have a radio? I have one now and it is nice to have it, but have so little time to really enjoy it. It seems that the longer one is in Alaska, the more you find to do. Then with sick folks etc. too, it takes time

3

Yes, the death of Mrs. Mogg, surely was terrible. It just seems impossible that such a thing could happen.

You asked about a starter for sour-milk. I used to have it too, when here before, but have not got any now. I first got it from Mrs. Burton. They are teaching at Point Barrow and no doubt he would have some. They got it from Rev. Larsen of Unalakleet, but I believe he is outside this year. Yes, I liked the sour milk starter too, especially for pan-cakes and cakes calling for sour milk.

Yes, Dahles are still at Shishmaref but will perhaps go outside this year. I'm not sure how-ever. This is my third year here again and if all goes well, I'll be here another two years. Wonder what this war is going to do. Well if Russia moves in here, I'll move over to you — Perhaps I can be your cook or something Ha Ha Well this will have to be all for this time — Wishing you a Merry Christmas — and Happy New Year. With love —

Helen Frost